

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
DAILY REPORT**

USACE DISTRICT: Savannah
PROJECT NAME: Brunswick Entrance Channel DREDGE NAME: R.N. Weeks

Date: 02/24/05 Load #: 54-62 Areas dredge worked: Sta 31⁰⁰-20⁰⁰

Location, Lat/Long: 31° 05.788' N 81° 19.536' W

Beaufort Sea State: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

AIR TEMP: 52-54 °C/F (°F = 9/5 (°C) + 32; °C = 5/9 (°F - 32))
WATER TEMP: Surface 55-56 °C/F Column (mid-depth) _____ °C/F Bottom _____ °C/F

Condition of deflector: Good Condition of screening: Good

Were there incidents involving endangered or protected species? YES NO

Which species? (complete incident form(s)) Northern Atlantic Right Whale

Comments (type of material, biological specimens, unusual circumstances, etc):
Material: mud + some clay

Samples: grass pen shell, sea cucumber, sea star, wood, horseshoe crab blue crab, eel

Observer and crew felt a shudder, upon looking around the vessel, a pectoral was seen aft at the ship. The flipper was above water level and a "waving" motion was observed for about 5 seconds then contact was lost. The flipper was black in color and paddle like in shape. The mate on watch stated that he felt like it hit the Z-drives, meaning it was submerged, and not that it had hit the bow first. The observer on the Lindholm spotted a blow approximately one mile from the location. The EWS Survey plane and the National Marine Fisheries boat found nothing at location. The boat was going 8 knots at time of contact. Chris Gray of Coastwise Consulting and FACSFACJAX were notified.

BRIDGE WATCH SUMMARY

Time	Species	# Sightings/# Animals	Location/Comments
11:29	Right whale	1 / 1	31° 03.3' N 81° 16.6' W

Observer name A. Lefwich / A. Jackson

Endangered Species Observer Program
LARGE WHALE OBSERVATION DATA
(Append to Daily Report)

Date 02/24/05

Project Name: Brunswick Entrance Channel USACE District: Savannah

Dredge Name: R.N. Weeks Dredge Firm: Weeks Marine

Load # 58 Times: Start 917 End 1038 Dump 1108

Location(lat/long) 31° 05.788' n X 81° 15.536' w Beau Sea State 2

Wind Direction S Speed 5 KTS Cloud Cover(%) 100 H₂O Surf. Temp 55°F

Start Sighting Time 1129 Vessel location (lat/long) 31° 03.3' n X 81° 16.6' w

Magnetic bearing to sighting 185 Estimated distance 500'

Species observed Northern Atlantic Right Whale # of animals 1

Vessel's heading 005 Animal's heading NOT KNOWN

Estimated length of whale(s) unknown

Coloration black

Fins or flippers observed pectoral flipper; paddle shaped

Behaviors observed Whale was on its side with pectoral flipper "waving"

Surfacing intervals (time and distance) none

End Sighting Time 11:30 Vessel location (lat/long) 31° 03.3' X 81° 16.6'

Duration of observation 5 seconds

Comments (was whale's behavior effected by vessel? how far and in what direction did whale(s) move during observation? who was notified?) Observer and crew felt a shudder; upon looking around the vessel, a pectoral flipper was seen aft of the ship. The flipper was above water level and a "waving" motion was observed for about five seconds, then contact was lost. The flipper was black in color and paddle like in shape. The ship was going ~ 8 KTS at the time of contact. Chris Slay of Coastwise Consulting and FACSFAC JAX were notified.

NRW code 415 received from FACSFAC JAX

Observers Names Alicia Leftwich / Andrew Jackson

Observer Firm Coastwise Consulting

On 02-24-05 at approximately 11:29 hrs the observer and crew present on the bridge of the R.N. Weeks felt a shudder. The mate on watch pulled the engines back as this is the normal procedure in case something is tangled in the props. Upon looking around the vessel, a pectoral flipper was seen aft of the ship. The flipper was black in color and paddle shaped, indicative of a Northern Atlantic Right Whale. The flipper was above water level and a "waving" motion was observed for about five seconds, then visual contact was lost when the flipper submerged. While observer Andrew Jackson continued to look for further surfacing by the whale, observer Alicia Leftwich called Chris Slay of Coastwise Consulting to notify him of the incident. At this point, the ship had coasted at least 1000 feet from the site of initial visual contact and no further visual contact had been made. Neither observer thought it would be wise to try and turn the ship around to relocate the whale as we had no way of knowing where it might be. Attempting to approach the area of last visual contact would have put the whale at risk of being struck again because we did not have visual contact with the whale. Neither observer felt there was anything that could be safely done from the ship. The EWS survey plane and NMFS had been notified and were sending their respective members out to attempt to locate the whale. The dredge continued to the dredge site and resumed normal operations. Subsequently the observer on the B.E. Lindholm saw a blow about a mile south of the original sighting. Neither the EWS survey plane or the NMFS vessel found any evidence of the whale in the area.

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Slow Bell Chart for R.N. Weeks, Brunswick Entrance Channel

Date:	Reason for Slow Bell:	Location of Whale Sighting:
2/18/2005	Whales spotted within 15 nautical miles by observer on B.E. Lindholm enroute to dump, slow bell for nighttime	31° 04.464' N X 81° 17.251' W
2/19/2005	No Slow Bell, no whales sighted within 15 n.m., aerial survey flew	
2/20/2005	Whales spotted within 15 nautical miles by aerial survey plane, slow bell only during nighttime, sea state was not over BSS 3 during daylight hours	31° 08' N X 81° 16.3' W (Sighting Time 1400)
2/21/2005	Whales spotted by aerial survey within 15 n.m., slow bell during nighttime only, sea state was not over BSS 3 during daylight hours	31° 12' N X 81° 09' W (Aerial Survey Sighting Time: 1224); 31° 06' N X 81° 17' W (Aerial Survey and Lindholm Observer Sighting Time: 1430)
2/22/2005	No Slow Bell, no whales sighted within 15 n.m., aerial survey flew	
2/23/2005	Slow Bell during nighttime hours due to there being no aerial survey on 2/23/05 due to weather	
2/24/2005	Right Whale spotted by R.N. Weeks as well as multiple sightings from Lindholm and aerial survey plane, slow bell for nighttime and then next day during daylight hours due to a sea state greater than BSS 3, until 1356 (24 hours from last sighting within 15 n.m.)	31° 03.3' N X 81° 16.6' W (Weeks Sighting Time: 1129); 31° 02' N X 81° 16' W (Lindholm Sighting Time: 1338); 31° 04' N X 81° 12' W (Aerial Survey Sighting Time: 1358)
2/25/2005	Slow Bell during nighttime hours due to there being no aerial survey on 02/25/05 due to weather	
2/26/2005	Slow Bell during nighttime hours due to there being no aerial survey on 02/26/05 due to weather	
2/27/2005	No aerial survey, would have required a slow bell but RN Weeks went inside and did not dredge due to weather	
2/28/2005	No Slow Bell, no whales sighted within 15 n.m., aerial survey flew	
3/1/2005	No Slow Bell, no whales sighted within 15 n.m., no call by aerial survey to let us know if they flew or not	
3/2/2005	Slow Bell during nighttime hours due to whale being spotted within 15 n.m. by aerial survey	31° 08' N X 81° 07' W (Aerial Survey Sighting Time 1457)
3/3/2005	Slow Bell during nighttime hours due to whale being spotted within 15 n.m. by aerial survey	30° 46' N X 81° 14' W (Aerial Survey Sighting Time 1417); 30° 51' N X 81° 12' W (Aerial Survey Sighting Time 1502)
3/4/2005	No Slow Bell during day light hours due to sea state being less than BSS 4	

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
WEEKLY SUMMARY**

USACE DISTRICT: SAVANNAH
PROJECT NAME: BRUNSWICK ENTRANCE CHANNEL DREDGE NAME: R.N. WEEKS

Dates: 02/18/05 - 02/24/05 Load #: 1-62

Areas dredge worked: -21+500 to -30+000 (31° 05.788'N 81° 19.536'W)

Were there incidents involving endangered or protected species? YES NO

Which species? NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

Comments: On 02/24/05 there was an incident with a right whale while returning from the dump - for a more detailed account see the daily and attached Large Whale Observation Data Sheet.

Material dredged consisted of mud and clay.

Samples included: trash, grass, horseshoe crabs, blue crabs, spider crabs, sea cucumbers, sea stars, whelks, eels, ~~sea~~ pen shells, bivalves, Wood sting ray, mantis shrimp, small gastropods, keyhole urchins, tubeworms, whelk egg cases, sea whips,

There have been 3 days ~~at~~ that have required the R.N. Weeks to slow to < 5 knots at night or during sea states > 3, due to the spotting of Right whales within 15 nautical miles.

BRIDGE WATCH SUMMARY

Date/Time	Species	# Sightings/# Animals	Location/Comments
02/19/05 1007	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	1 1	near buoy # 9
02/19/05 1040	<i>T. truncatus</i>	2 1	in channel
02/20/05 0805	<i>T. truncatus</i>	2 2	in channel
02/20/05 0836	<i>T. truncatus</i>	4 3	@ buoy # 9
02/24/05 1129	Right Whale	1 1	31° 03.3'N x 81° 16.6'W

Alicia Lettwich / Andrew Jackson,
Observer name Carrie Singer / Cindy Franz