

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**

Dredge *OUACHITA* - Brownsville, TX

USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 02 / 18 / 95 Loads: 133-134

Area(s) Worked: Stations 60+00-131+00

Weather Conditions: Cloudy, Winds N 10 knots, Seas 2-3 H2O Temp 66

Condition of all screening apparatus: See comments

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes x No     

Comments: Load 134 half of a green turtle was sampled in the  
skimmer. Turtle was found on the port side of the skimmer.  
Carapace was 19 cm in length and 35 cm in width. Turtle had  
no foul odor to it and good skin color. Small amount of blood  
was sighted between the cracks in the scutes. Turtle was measured  
and photographed awaiting disposition.

The dredge is equipped with one skimmer with 4 x 4  
screening and two overboard discharge boxes with 4 x 4 screening.  
This makes the dredge equipped with 100% overflow screening.  
The three inflow landers have 4 x 4 screening and are 18" high.  
The problem with the inflow screening is that when the dredge  
is digging the mid and aft inflow screens are submerged. This  
was apparent after the first load when most of the samples  
were found in the skimmer. The skimmer is raised because  
this is the efficient way to dig this silt area. To have  
100% inflow screening would be a major screening and welding  
redesign project. So, for this project, screening will be **continued**

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
No sightings	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
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Eric Westerman, Phil Tonne

Observer(s) On Duty:



ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge OUACHITA - Brownsville, TX  
USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 02 / 19 / 95 Loads: 135-137

Area(s) Worked: Stations 60+00-131+00

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, Winds N-NE 10-20 knots, Seas H2O Temp 66

Condition of all screening apparatus: New lander screen holding up <sup>2-4</sup> fine.

Overboard discharge screens needed to be put on deck due to seas picking up, now during turns all water is put into the hopper.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No x

Comments: Mid and aft inflow samples mainly consist of rock, cable, rope, nets, and trash. Samples such as nets and rope are tangled in the screen and dont flow out into the skimmer when landers are submerged. The fore lander that has the screen over the top of it to catch debris has been sampling less debris than the aft and mid screen. Skimmer samples have mainly consisted of seaweed, shrimp trawlers trash by-catch, this includes cable, nets, badly decomposed rays, skates and fish. Overboard discharge samples mainly consist of trash, wood, and rocks.

Dredge received call from base to stop digging and to come into port to put Teds on. Dredge dumped load and went into port.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tt	3	16	Bottlenose dolphins

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman, Phil Tonne

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**

Dredge *OUACHITA* - Brownsville, TX

USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 02 / 20 / 95 Loads: NA

Area(s) Worked: At Dock

Weather Conditions: NA H2O Temp \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of all screening apparatus: Put Teds on

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No NA

Comments: Dredge at dock for Teds to be put on and steering repairs.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman, Phil Tonne

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge OUACHITA - Brownsville, TX

USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 02 / 21 / 95 Loads: 138-140

Area(s) Worked: Stations 66+00-131+00

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, Winds light airs, Seas calm H2O Temp 65

Condition of all screening apparatus: Screening intact and in good working order. Teds in place, old Teds and will probably need alot of of maintenance, starboard side rides alittle high up. Port Ted padeye broken, chain untacted and repaied.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No x

Comments: With Teds in place and steering gear back in order dredging commences again. Samples include wood, rock, trash, blue crabs, nurse crabs, hermit crabs, sea stars, cannonball jellyfish, skates, rays, flounder and shell.

Bridge Watch Summary

Table with 4 columns: Species, # of Sightings, # of Animals, Comments. Row 1: Tt, 3, 15, Bottlenose dolphins

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman, Phil Tonne

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**

Dredge *OUACHITA* - Brownsville, TX

USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 02 / 22 / 95 Loads: 141-144

Area(s) Worked: Stations 60+00-66+00-131+00

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, winds southerly 5-18 knots H2O Temp 65

Condition of all screening apparatus: Seas calm to 4' New screening added to the fore  
lander screen.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No     

Comments: Load 144 a juvenile green turtle was sampled in  
the skimmer. Turtle was discovered as observer went to  
clean clogging skimmer. The turtle was mainly bleeding  
from the crack in the 5th central scute from the dorsal  
side. Turtle was also bleeding from marginal and inframarginal  
scute areas. The skin was pink and blood spot areas were  
sighted in the flipper. The turtle had numerous other areas  
of abrasions on it. Arrangements were made with the local  
zoo to take care of the turtle. Ships crew boat and personnel  
were helpful and responsive to the situation.

Observers have been on the project eleven loads  
and have sampled two green turtles in the overflow screen.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman, Phil Tonne

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *OUACHITA* - Brownsville, TX

USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: Feb. / 23 / 95 Loads: 145-147.

Area(s) Worked: stations 60+00 - 131+00.

Weather Conditions: Clear-partly cloudy, winds SE @ 10-12 knots, H2O Temp 66 seas 2-4 feet.

Condition of all screening apparatus: All screening in good condition. The TEDs were repaired twice. On load 146 the main support shackle had to be replaced on the port excluder. On load 148, both TEDs were in need of repair. Shackles were tack-welded, some shackles replaced, and the safety lead was replaced. Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

Comments: Dredging operations continued and ran smoothly, except for the repairs made to the TEDs listed above. The oncoming crew has proved to be very helpful and safety conscious.

Ten *Tursiops truncatus* were spotted in the channel at 0940 and again at 1200.

Bridge Watch Summary

Table with 4 columns: Species, # of Sightings, # of Animals, Comments. Row 1: Tursiops truncatus, 10, sighted twice.

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman & Phil Tonne

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *OUACHITA* - Brownsville, TX

USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 02 / 24 / 95 Loads: 148-151

Area(s) Worked: Stations 60+00-131+00

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, Winds variable 10-20 knots H2O Temp 66

Seas 1-4

Condition of all screening apparatus: Both Teds repaired yesterday, port Ted lead safety wire broken, reshackled, tackwelded, Starboard Ted tried hanging lower.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No x

Comments: Clean up work continues, samples becoming smaller in quantity. Samples are the same with more clay being sampled.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tt	1	4	Bottlenose dolphins

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman, Phil Tonne

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**

Dredge *OUACHITA* - Brownsville, TX

USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: Feb./ 25 / 95 Loads: 152 - 155.

Area(s) Worked: stations 60+00 - 131+00.

Weather Conditions: Mostly cloudy, winds SE at 10-20 knots, seas 2-5 feet. H2O Temp 68

Condition of all screening apparatus: The screening was in good condition. Several repairs had to be made to the TEDs.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments: The loads are increasingly rich in clay. The TEDs are in need of repair every other load, on average.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman and Phil Tonne

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**

Dredge *OUACHITA* - Brownsville, TX

USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: Feb. / 26 / 95 Loads: 156 - 157.

Area(s) Worked: stations 60+00 - 131+00.

Weather Conditions: overcast to partly cloudy, winds SE @ 10-18 H2O Temp 67

knots, seas 3-5 feet, air temperature 68-70 F.  
Condition of all screening apparatus: All screening was in good condition. However, the  
TEDs were in need of repair after load # 157.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes x No     

Comments: A Kemp's ridley turtle was taken in load # 156. The turtle was  
caught in the inflow screening of the forward lander. The turtle was dead,  
badly fractured, and missing the right anterior quarter of the body including  
the head, The body cavity was empty except for the lining, which remained  
intact. Fresh blood was present in the cavity and no foul odor was associated  
with the turtle. The cavity lining was purple, light purple, red, and bluish  
in color.

The carapace was olive grey, fading to a lighter cream color at the  
outer edges of the marginal scutes. The plastron was a creamy, pale yellow.  
The distal ends of the flippers were flecked with grey. The fore flipper had  
one curved claw, .9 cm in length. The rear flippers had two claws each, the  
proximal 1cm and the distal .5 cm in length.

The turtle was measured and photographed, carefully keyed, and  
placed in the galley freezer.

At 20:11 the Gulf Coast base office called and relayed a message  
from the Corp to discontinue dredging operations.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tursiops truncatus</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>swimming in channel inside jetties.</u>
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
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Observer(s) On Duty: Phil Tonne and Eric Westerman



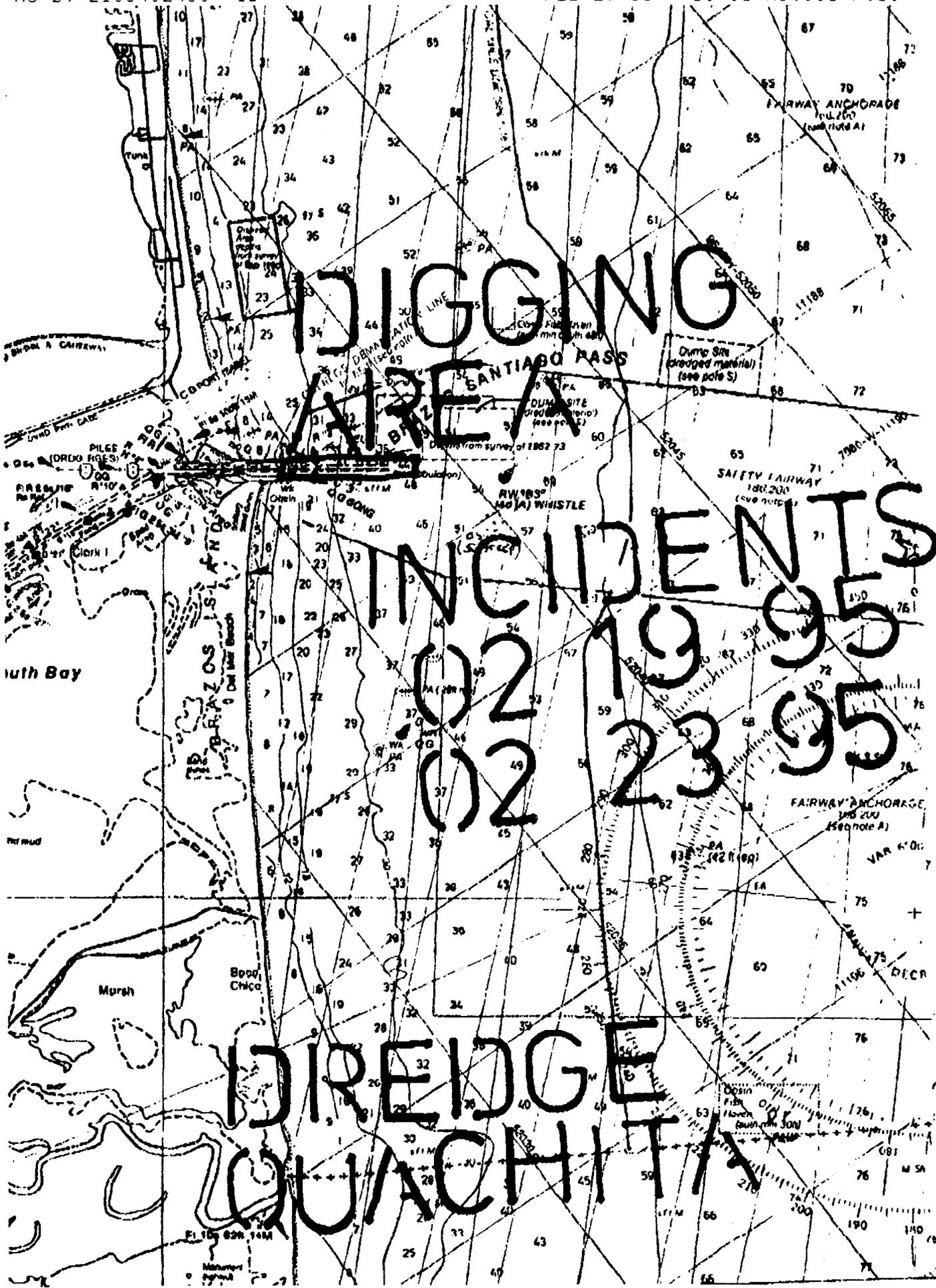
Date: 02 /18-26/95

Additional Comments: from flowing over the screening and into the hopper. This proved to be effective; the last turtle sampled was caught by the added screening. The mid and aft lander screens could not be modified as easily due to lander design.

Gulf Coast personnel were very helpful and cooperative. The dredge crew and field engineers made our work safer and easier. The TEDs were welded and repaired in a timely manner. Crew members assisted with screen improvements, and the crew boat operator and field engineers went out of their way to transport the injured turtle in a timely manner.

Dredged material consisted of silt and clay.

Dredging operations were curtailed at 20:11 when the Gulf Coast base office relayed a message from the Corp that digging must stop. This occurred on the night of Sunday, the 26th of February.



**DIGGING  
AREA**

**INCIDENTS**  
02 19 95  
02 23 95

**DREDGE  
QUACHITA**

