

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>
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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.