

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 11/26/95

Loads: 125 - 159

Area(s) Worked: Stations -130+⁰⁰ to -80+⁰⁰ (Section 2)

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, SW winds 5 to 20 kts, seas falling from 7' to 2-3'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface - 67 to 68 ° F Below Mid-Depth - 66 to 67 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments:

Material is mainly clay with small amounts of plastic trash, nylon fishing gear and chain link. Mid and aft lander chutes are still retaining more clayballs and other material than screening on fore chute. Spider crabs, wood debris, one menhaden and one tripletail, *Lobotes surinamensis*, comprised the biological materials retained.

Swell increased during the day from 1 - 2' to 5 - 7' by midnight.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: C. Mason, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 11/27/95

Loads: 125 - 159

Area(s) Worked: Stations -80+⁰⁰ to -40+⁰⁰ (Section 3)

Weather Conditions: cloudy, winds shifting from SW to N, 5 to 20 kts, seas 2 - 7'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface - 67 to 72 ° F Below Mid-Depth - 69 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments:

Dredge moves inshore from Section 2 to Section 3. Much less clay, more mud and sand in new section. Loads 135 -144 were one cut/load, sometimes entering inshore end of Section 2 to get a full load. Beginning with load 145, started making two cuts/load entirely within Section 3. Very little plastic or other debris, occasional fishing net or line.

No biological materials retained by screens.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: C. Mason, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 11/28/95

Loads: 160 - 185

Area(s) Worked: Stations -80+⁰⁰ to -40+⁰⁰ (Section 3)

Weather Conditions: Cloudy, N winds 20 to 30 kts, seas 2 - 4'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface - 68 ° F Below Mid-Depth - 67 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments:

Material is very clean, light mud and sand with little clay. Small amounts of plastic trash, nylon fishing gear and metal debris. One spider crab.

Hydraulic problems with port dragarm after Load #175 resulted in it being brought aboard only about every fifth load unless it was clogged with debris. Observers checked it from the deck as it was brought out of the water next to the dredge when it wasn't brought aboard.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: C. Mason, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 11/29/95

Loads: 186 - 205

Area(s) Worked: Stations -80+⁰⁰ to -40+⁰⁰, -130+⁰⁰ to -80+⁰⁰ (Sections 3, 2)

Weather Conditions: Clear, N wind 10 - 20 kts, seas 2 -3'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface - 65 ° F Below Mid-Depth - 63 to 65 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments:

Moved from Section 3 (Stations -80+⁰⁰ to -40+⁰⁰) to Section 2 (Stations -130+⁰⁰ to -80+⁰⁰) after Load #194. Section 3 material was very clean, with little clay or trash remaining in dragheads, lander chutes, or overflow baskets after dredging. Wood debris and one whelk were biological materials collected in the nine loads from this section.

Section 2 contained heavier amounts of clay, plastic debris, fishing gear and other trash. Wood pieces and one menhaden were also obtained.

Starboard dragarm winch hydraulics blew out during Load #190 but was fixed by #191.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
---------	------------------	----------------	----------

none

Observer(s) On Duty: C. Mason, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 11/30/95

Loads: 206 - 219

Area(s) Worked: Stations -130+⁰⁰ to -80+⁰⁰ (Section 2)

Weather Conditions: Clear, N wind 5 - 15 kts, seas 1 -2'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface - 64 to 65 ° F Below Mid-Depth - 63 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments:

Clay continues to be heavy, often requiring some hand-removal with shovels from dragheads. Plastic trash, fishing gear and other debris is also abundant in dragheads, skimmer, and mid and aft discharge chutes, with lesser amounts in fore chute. Biological material in screening includes hardhead catfish, American eel, and a small ray.

Generally making four cuts/load to get enough material for full load. *Ouachita* heads for dry dock in Galveston after Load #219 is dumped about 22:00. Observers spend two hours cutting and removing all tangled fishing lines, rope, etc. from screening that we weren't able to remove during dredging.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: C. Mason, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 11/26/95 - 12/2/95

Loads: 106 - 219

Range of Water Temperature: Surface 64 - 72 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 63 - 69 ° F

Area(s) Worked: Sections 2, 3 (Stations -130+⁰⁰ to -80+⁰⁰, -80+⁰⁰ to -40+⁰⁰)

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **No**

Comments:

All screening in good working order. Material retained is heavy clay and abundant trash (fishing line, net and other gear, plastic, miscellaneous) in Section 2 (outermost) and much cleaner sand and mud in Section 3. Surface and mid-depth water temperatures have been falling gradually through the week from upper sixties/lower seventies to lower and mid sixties by week's end.

Biological materials retained by screening include wood debris and very low numbers of spider crabs, whelks, menhaden, tripletail, hardhead catfish, American eel, and an unidentified ray.

After Load #219 on 11/30/95 the *Ouachita* left the dredge site for scheduled repairs at a shipyard in Galveston.

No sightings of marine mammals or sea turtles were made from the bridge this week. This may be the result of short load cycles, generally 40 to 50 minutes, which required observers to be off of the bridge for much of the time.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observers On Duty: D. Kinzey, C. Mason

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge Ouachita - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12/24/95 Loads: 468-481

Area(s) Worked: -20 to 0 → +40 to 0

Weather Conditions: CLR → OVC, WIND NW → NE 8-28 FT SEAS 1'-5'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 56°F Below Mid-Depth _____

Condition of all screening apparatus: EXCELLENT, SKIMMER AS BEFORE

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): LANDERS MOSTLY FREE OF DEBRIS, FRONT (FWD) LANDER ACCUMULATING LINE & FISHING TACKLE. SKIMMER COLLECTS THE USUAL WOOD & TRASH. SAW TOTTED PENN SHELLS, WHELKS, WHELK EGG CASES ON SKIMMER.

AFTER LOAD 481, OUACHITA DOCKS @ BRAZOS HARBOR FOR 24 HR XMAS DOWNTIME. ALL LANDERS CLR'D OF ALL ACCUMULATED DEBRIS, LINE, & FISHING GEAR. SKIMMER & OVERBDS ALSO CLR'D OF TRASH.

LOADS WERE 1 CUT OUTBOUND, SILT MATERIAL, WITH A FEW CLAYBALLS, BOTTOM DUMPED AS USUAL.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<u>TURNOPE IRUNCATUS</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>~ 24</u>	<u>INSIDE & AROUND JETTIES, FEEDING.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: C. AASIN, M. PIERCY

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12, 25, 95 Loads: 482-488
Area(s) Worked: +40 to 0 → -20 to 0 SEC 5 (+40 to 0 → 0) & SEC 4 - PARTIAL (0 - -20 to 0)
Weather Conditions: OVC → CLR WIND NW 5-12KT SEAS 1'-2'
Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 57°F Below Mid-Depth _____
Condition of all screening apparatus: ALL IN GOOD SHAPE, NEW SKIMMER CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES...

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): OUACHITA GETS UNDERWAY 1600, DIGGING BY 1622. ON THE ONE OUTBOUND CUT, SKIMMER PICKS UP SOME WOOD & A BIT OF TRASH. LANDERS MOSTLY CLEAR EXCEPT SOME OCCASIONAL TRASH. NO ANIMALS OF ANY TYPE SAMPLED.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: C. MASON, M. PIERCY

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12, 26, 95 Loads: 489-511
Area(s) Worked: +40 f00 → -20 f00 SEC 5 & PART OF SEC. 4
Weather Conditions: CLR → OVC, WIND NW 5-28 KT,
Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 56° - 57° F Below Mid-Depth _____
Condition of all screening apparatus: Good

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): SKIMMER PICKS UP THE USUAL WOOD, TREE BRANCH SAMPLES, PLASTICS, TRASH. MID & AFT LANDERS SAMPLE ROCKS, LINE, SOME CARPET. BIOLOGICS WERE A BLUE CRAB, WHECK EGGS, A CUTLASS FISH, OYSTER AND PENN SHELLS.
CONTINUING TO CHECK OVERFLOW & BASKETS, DRAGERS, EN ROUTE TO DUMP, LANDERS ON THE WAY BACK TO CUT AFTER BEING FLUSHED. FIRE & BOAT DRILL HELD @ NOON. SAFETY MTG FOLLOWED.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: C. MASON, M. PIERCY

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12, 27, 195 Loads: 512 - 523
Area(s) Worked: +40+00 → -20+00 (Sec. 5+4) - 80+00 → -40+00 (Sec. 3)
Weather Conditions: wind = 6-18 Kt, NW → SE, Seas = calm → 1'
Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 57°F Below Mid-Depth _____
Condition of all screening apparatus: Landers + port & starboard overflows all in good condition, skimmer still in need of repair

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): _____

In sections 4+5 (loads 512-518) the following materials were being retained by screening: wood, clay, trash, fishing line, Spider crabs - 2, sand whelk eggs. These were 1 cut outbound loads.

In Section 3 (loads 519-523), materials retained by screening were, wood, trash, clay, Spider crabs - 26, Cutlassfish - 12, Catfish - 1, whelk eggs, ~~pen~~ Sawtoothed penshells. These were 8 cut ~~loads~~ agitation loads.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PERCY, C. MASON

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12 / 28 / 95 Loads: 524 - 541
Area(s) Worked: -80+00 → -40+00 (Sec. 3), +40+00 → -40+00 (Sec. 4+5)
Weather Conditions: wind = 12-32 kt, NE → NW, sky = clear → overcast, seas = 2'-5'.
Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 56°F - 57°F Below Mid-Depth _____
Condition of all screening apparatus: all screening in good shape - skimmer still in need of repair.

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): _____

In Section 3 (loads 524-525) materials being retained were: clay, wood, trash, nets, spider crabs - 11, Blue Crabs - 1, Cutlassfish - 10. These were 8-cut agitation loads.

In Section 4+5 (loads 526-541) materials being retained by screening were: trash, wood, clay, rocks, fishing line, Blue Crab - 1, Cutlassfish - 2, Spider Crabs - 4. These were 1 ~~cut~~ ^{cut} outbound loads.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<u><i>Tussock truncatus</i></u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>mouth of jetties</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PERCY, C. MASON

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12, 29, 95 Loads: 522-564
Area(s) Worked: +40+00 → -40+00 (Sec. 4+5)
Weather Conditions: wind=12-24kt, N→NE, sky=clear→overcast, seas=2'-5'
Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 57°F - 56°F Below Mid-Depth _____
Condition of all screening apparatus: all screening in good shape except skimmer which is still in need of repair

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): _____

In Sections 4+5 (loads 542-564) materials being retained by ~~st~~ screening were: clay, wood, trash, fishing line and nets, spider crab-2, cutlassfish, penshells, whelk eggs, Blue Crab.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<u><i>Tursiops truncatus</i></u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>inside jettes</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: _____

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12, 30, 95 Loads: 565-580
Area(s) Worked: +40 to 0 → -40 to 0 (SECS 4 & 5) SEC 3, -40 → -80 fms
Weather Conditions: CLR → OVC WIND NE - SE 10-16 KNT SEAS 2'-4'
Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface NO TEMPS Below Mid-Depth _____
Condition of all screening apparatus: GOOD. SKIMMER RENT - NEW ONE IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): DREDGING SEC. 4 (+40 to 0 → 0) & 5 (0 → -40 to 0). SECTION 3 WAS AGITATED FOR 6 1/2 HRS (LOAD 571), LANDERS & DRAGS SAMPLED CLAY, SKIMMER SMPLED MUCH WOOD & SEVERAL SPIDER CRABS. SECS 4 & 5 SAMPLED CLAY, WOOD, AND THE ONLY BIOLOGICS WERE A FEW SPIDER CRABS, ON ONE OUTBOUND CUT. NO PROBLEMS WITH SAMPLING, ALL IS ROUTINE.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: C. MASON, M. PIERCY.

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge Ouachita - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 12, 24, 195 - 12, 30, 195 Loads: 468 - 580

Range of Water Temperature: Surface 56°F - 57°F Below Mid-Depth _____

Area(s) Worked: -20 → -40(4), +40 → -20(5/4) -80 → -40(3) +40 → -40(425)

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

Comments: ONE OUTBOUND CUT BEING MADE IN SEC. 4, SILT MATERIAL; AFTER LOAD 481, ALL LANDERS, OVERBOARDS, & SKIMMER WERE CLEARED OF ALL DEBRIS ENROUTE TO DOCK FOR 24 HR HOLIDAY DOWNTIME... FROM THE 25TH THRU 27TH, DIGGING SEC 5 & PART OF 4... SKIMMER SMPL YIELDING BLUE CRABS, WHELK EGGS, CUTLASS FISH, AND SPIDER CRABS... SECTION 3 WAS DUG TOWARDS THE LATER PART OF THE DAY ON 27TH, SCREENING RETAINED A GREATER # OF BIOLOGIC SPECIMENS, 26 SPIDER CRABS, 12 CUTLASS FISH, WHELK EGGS & A CATFISH. THE 5 LOADS IN SEC 3 WERE 8 CUT AGITATIONS. ON THE 28TH, SECTION 3 DUG IN AM, RETAINING 11 SPIDER CRABS, A BLUE CRAB, AND 10 CUTLASS FISH, THEN BACK TO SECTIONS 4 & 5, RETAINING MUCK CLAY IN SMPLS AS WE DIG DEEPER. SCREENS IN GOOD SHAPE, NEW SKIMMER CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES, PRESENT ONE IS BENT UP BADLY.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<u>TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>~ 31</u>	<u>FEEDING AROUND MOUTH OF JETTIES.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observers On Duty: C. MASON, M. PIERCY

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 1 / 14 / 96

Loads: 777 → 792

Area(s) Worked: 40+00 → 60+00

Weather Conditions: wind = 4-15 kt, N → S → W, sky = partly cloudy → clear, seas = 2-5'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 60°F Below Mid-Depth _____

Condition of all screening apparatus: Starboard TED has crack in bottom, skimmer needs replacement, floor of Aftlander needs welding, all else=okay.

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): _____

Materials retained by screening were: clay, trash, rocks, fishing line, steel rod, logs, whelk eggs, oysters, cutlassfish, trout; Blue Crab - 2, Spider Crab - 1.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, C. MASON

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 1 / 15 / 96

Loads: 793-795

Area(s) Worked: 40+00 → 60+00

Weather Conditions: Wind = 5-10 Kt E → NW, sky = clear, seas = 2-4'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 57°F Below Mid-Depth _____

Condition of all screening apparatus: Starboard TED has crack in bottom, skimmer needs replacing, floor of Aftlander needs welding, all else okay.

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): _____

Materials retained in screening were: clay, trash, wood, whelk eggs, rocks.
Ouachita docked at Brazos Harbor at 0620 to repair starboard impeller on dredge pump. Left dock at 0624 on 1/16/96 to return to dredge section 5B. (40+00 → 60+00.)

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, C. MASON

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Ouachita* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 1 1 16 196 Loads: 796

Area(s) Worked: 40+00 → 60+00

Weather Conditions: wind = 8 kt S, sky = foggy → clear, seas = 1-2'

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface _____ Below Mid-Depth _____

Condition of all screening apparatus: Cracks in bottom of Starboard TED, Skimmer needs replacement, floor of Aftlander needs welding, all other screening is in good shape.

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): _____

This was the final load for the project. The USACE approved the final section at 13:45. Both observers were off Dredge Ouachita by 14:00, when the crew boat was loaded on to the dredge and left for Florida. Materials retained by the screening apparatus were: wood, trash, fishing line, shrimp net, rocks, clay, whelk eggs and Cutlassfish - 2.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<u><i>Tursiops truncatus</i></u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>breaching near dump site.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, C. MASON