

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: Freeport Texas

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 10 / 09 / 95 Time(24hr) 1918-1937

Species of Turtle Taken Caretta caretta - Loggerhead sea turtle

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Freeport Entrance Channel

Location of Take: Latitude 28° 53' 46" N Longitude 95° 15' 21" W

Vessel Name and Company Dredge Atchafalaya, Gulf Coast Trailing company

Type of Dredging Activity Maintenance-Hopper Dredge

Load # 254 Times: Start 1918 End 1937 Dump 1949

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow, etc.) 100% Inflow

Samples Recovered From Draghead (Carapace) Lander (Intestines)

Condition of Screening Good

Draghead Deflector? Yes No

Condition of Deflector Good

Weather Conditions Clear, Winds E 10 knots, Seas 1'-2' Tide Ebb

Water Temperature: Surface 26° C Column 26° C C or F (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled Fresh dead, carapace had several cracks in it.

The two largest cracks were 64 CM and 47 CM. The carapace was caught in the draghead. Three sections of intestines was sampled in the lander, intestines

had pieces of black-fingered mud crab in it.

Measurements--

Give estimate of entire carapace dimensions, as well as fragments sampled (in metric when possible, indicate if not):

Head Width 17 CM

Plastron Length 57CM Width 51 CM CM

Carapace S. L. Length 77 CM S.L. Width 62 CM

Carapace O.C. Length 80 CM O.C. Width 74 CM

Turtle Tagged? Yes No Tag # Tag Date / /

Comments The turtle was covered with clay, plastron had 1 CM of clay covering.

The turtle had to pried out of the draghead. After the turtle was placed on the

deck slight flipper movements were detected. These movements stopped after a couple

minutes. The turtle was photographed and measured. On the afternoon of the 10th

the turtle was weighted down and disposed of at the disposal site.

Observer's Name Eric Westerman

The Loggerhead was stuck in the draghead. The turtle had to be pried out. The carapace was severely crushed. The turtle showed slight signs of life for a couple of minutes as flipper movements were detected. These movements ceased after a couple of minutes. Three 150 CM of intestines was sampled in the lander. Intestines had pieces of black-fingered mud crab in it. One small piece of intestine was sampled on the next load. Material digging in this section is mud and clay.

Dredge Atchafalaya
 Freeport Entrance
 Channel
 Sampled 10-09-95
 Fresh Dead
 Caretta caretta
 Load#254

