ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: FREEPORT HARBOR CHANNEL MAINTENANCE DIGGING

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 7/22/96 **Time(24hr)** 2330

Species of Turtle Taken LOGGERHEAD. Caretta caretta

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) FREEPORT HARBOR CHANNEL. FREEPORT TX.

Location of Take: Latitude 28°55' N **Longitude** 95°16' W

Vessel Name and Company US ARMY CORPS of ENGINEERS dredge "WHEELER"

Type of Dredging Activity Maintenance

Load # 16 (283 cumulative) **Times: Start** 2243 **End** 2312 **Dump** 2331

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow,etc.) inflow

Samples Recovered From STBD AFT screen (mashed parts) PORT AFT & PORT FORWARD (PIECES OF CARAPACE)

Condition of Screening FINE

Draghead Deflector? Yes X **No** _____

Condition of Deflector FINE (Big, solid, fixed, plow type)

Weather Conditions clear skies, S wind 7-10 knots seas 4' **Tide** HIGH, start Ebb, 1.2'

Water Temperature: Surface 31°C **Column** 31°C (HOPPER) (C) or F (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled Thoroughly mangled. Two pieces CARAPACE RECOVERED: 1 piece 16x15 cm, the other 14x8 cm. ONE HANDFUL of INTESTINE/VISCERA; SEVERAL POUNDS OF GROUND TURTLE FLESH, BONE, VISCERA & ~18" ~~VISCERA~~. TRACHEA

Measurements--

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

Head Width no head

Plastron Length no plastron **Width** —

Carapace S. L. Length only 2 small pieces **S.L. Width** —

Carapace O.C. Length — **O.C. Width** —

Turtle Tagged? Yes (?) **No** _____ **Tag #** _____ **Tag Date** / /

Comments Working the tow lines, (channel edges) between roughly the "G5/R6" & "G7" channel markers. in on the red side, & out on the green. Remains photographed, & retained frozen.

Observer's Name JOHN KNECHT

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: FREEPORT HARBOUR CHANNEL MAINTENANCE DREDGING

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 07 / 23 / 96 **Time(24hr)** 0400

Species of Turtle Taken CARETTA CARETTA; LOGGERHEAD

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) FREEPORT HARBOUR CHANNEL, FREEPORT, TEXAS

Location of Take: Latitude 28° 55' N **Longitude** 95° 16' W

Vessel Name and Company U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DREDGE "WHEELER"

Type of Dredging Activity MAINTENANCE DREDGING

Load # 2 (285 CUMULATIVE) **Times: Start** 0311 **End** 0347 **Dump** 0402

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow,etc.) INFLOW

Samples Recovered From PORT FORWARD AND STARBOARD FORWARD SCREENS

Condition of Screening FINE. SOLID, FIXED PLOW-TYPE, DEFLECTORS AND SCREENING INSPECTED AND IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.

Draghead Deflector? Yes X **No** _____

Condition of Deflector FINE

Weather Conditions PTLY CLOUDY; WINDS SW 11-16 KNOTS; SEAS 4 FT. **Tide** 0139 LOW 1.0 FT

Water Temperature: Surface 31° **Column** 30° (C) or F (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled DEAD. CUT ALMOST IN HALF CARAPACE IN TWO PIECES WITH ATTACHED PLASTRON, VISCERA AND SOME MUSCLE, AND ATTACHED LEFT REAR FLIPPER (ALL IN STBD. FORE SCREEN) PART OF NOSE AND UPPER JAW (IN PORT FORE SCREEN)

Measurements--

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

Head Width PIECE OF NOSE AND UPPER JAW ONLY

Plastron Length / **Width** /

Carapace S. L. Length 66 CM * **S.L. Width** /

Carapace O.C. Length FLATTENED CARAPACE **O.C. Width** /

Turtle Tagged? Yes ? **No** UNKNOWN **Tag #** _____ **Tag Date** / /

Comments* CARAPACE LENGTH IS APPROXIMATION OF TWO PIECES OF CARAPACE PUT TOGETHER (66 CM). PLASTRON PIECE 38 CM x 19 CM. NOSE AND PART OF UPPER JAW 8 CM x 4 CM. FRESH RED BLOOD ON UNDERSIDE OF CARAPACE, NO FOUL SMELL, REDDISH BROWN IN COLOR. THE CAPTAIN WAS IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED OF TAKE AND ADVISED CREW TO CEASE DREDGING UNTIL DAYLIGHT HOURS MEANWHILE SHIP TRAVERSED IN AND OUT OF CHANNEL TO ENCOURAGE, HOPEFULLY, OTHER TURTLES TO MOVE ON

Observer's Name BRETT JOHNSON