ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *OUACHITA* - Matagorda Bay, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 10 / 13 / 96 Loads: 143 through 157

Area(s) Worked: -14,000 to -9,000 excepts Loads# 143 & 144 [28°23.40 96°17.10]

Weather Conditions: Clear to partly cloudy, ENE to NNE winds 3-15 Knots, Seas moderate

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 24°C Below Mid-Depth 24°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

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

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

One Loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta) was taken in the starboard draghead visor. Judging by the size, it was a subadult. The right side of the body was caught in the visor indicating the turtle became lodged while the draghead was on the bottom.
No sightings of other endangered species or incidents involving protected species occurred today. Sightings of protected species are listed.

Dredged material was mud and clay in Section I, in Section II sand & shell.

Biological samples: 2 catfish, 2 ecks of jellyballs, 1 stingray, 1 flounder, 1 whiting, 1 blue crab (Callinectes sapidus), 1 purse crab (Persephone sp.),

Abiotic samples: rope, mud, shrimp net, clay, plastic, wood, shrimp net float, cable, glass, foam rubber, logs, fishing line.
Overflow screen was cleaned after Loads# 143, 144, 146, 149, 151 & 153. After Load #153 one section of overflow screen was lifted to relieve constant clogging.
Large concentration of jelly balls (Stomolophus meleagris) were seen in the channel from 0835 to 1022.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tt	1	3	Sightings near Buoys 7 & 8. Attempted to ride bow wave. Ship moving too slowly for a ride.

Observer(s) On Duty: Cathy Salcas, Leslie Sprague

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *OUACHITA* - Matagorda Bay, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 10/07/96 - 10/13/96 Loads: 20 through 157

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 26°-24°C Below Mid-Depth 26°-24°C

Area(s) Worked: Section I (-20,000 to -14,000) & Section II (-14,000 to -9,000) 28°23N 96°17W

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

Comments: On Sunday 10/13/96 at 1707 one subadult Loggerhead (Cc) sea turtle was caught in the Starboard Draghead Visor. Its head, front right flipper and right margin of shell were recovered. It apparently became trapped while the draghead was on the bottom of the channel. One Kemp's Ridley (Lk) sea turtle was observed by Dragtender, Rafael Zalaya & Mate, John Streett. (Observer was checking screens and did not see it.) The Ridley surfaced twice and then swam towards the open ocean.
Center/Overflow screen was cleaned every 1 to 3 Loads during the entire week. Dredged material was mud and clay in Section I. In Section II sand, grass, mud & clay were dredged.
One of four segments of the Overflow screen was removed to alleviate clogging on the 13th.
Biological Samples: 24 catfish, 30 eels, 23 jelly balls, 1 stingray, 4 flounders, 6 whitings, 5 mole crabs, 1 purse crab, 7 blue crab, 1 calico crab, 1 lady crab, 1 sea pansy, 1 skate, 3 unidentified fish shells (various, empty), 1 sole, 1 anemone, 1 menhaden, 1 tongue fish, 2 marine worms, grass, 1 Gulf butterfish, 2 mantis shrimp, 1 shrimp, 3 ornate crabs (Callinectes ornatus).
Large concentrations of jelly balls (Stomolophus meleagris) observed in channel 11th-13th.
Abiotic samples: rope, mud, shrimp net, clay, plastic, wood, cable, shrimp net float, glass, foam rubber, logs, fishing line, mesh bags, cloth, tree trunk sections, shrimp net chaffing, metal scraps, boots, shrimp net chain, rubber shoes, netting, tire, metal grating, sand, large link chain, rocks, wire, hard hats

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Lk	1	1	Kemp's Ridley surfaced twice & swam out to sea.
Tt	10	46	Sightings in channel near various buoys. Three sightings involved riding the bow waves of this vessel and another freighter.

Observers On Duty: Cathy Sakas, Leslie Sprague

ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *OUACHITA* - Matagorda Bay, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 10 / 14 / 96 Loads: 158 through 165 [28° 23N / 96° 18W]

Area(s) Worked: Section I (-20,000 to -14,000) & Section II (-14,000 to -9,000)

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy to Overcast, NE winds 5-10 knots, Seas moderate 2-4

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 24°C Below Mid-Depth 24°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good

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

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

The rest of the Loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta) picked up on 10/13/96 Load #154 was picked up today by the Starboard Draghead on Load #163. It was definitely the same turtle. No sightings of endangered species today nor incidents involving protected species. Sighting of protected species is listed below.

Dredged material is mud & clay.

Biological samples: 4 conger eels, 6 marine worms, Lightening whelks & Horse conchs (empty shells), grass, 1 flounder

Abiotic samples: Wood, rope, plastic, mud

During Load #158 the Port Dragarm winch failed suspending dredging from 2114 on 10/13/95 to 0117 today. Due to cracks in Port Draghead and the need to offload winch for repairs, dredging was suspended from 1056 to 2204 while we transited to and from and docked at Port O'Conner - Point Comfort dock.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tt	4	1	Two mother/calf pairs were swimming in the channel near ICW 74

Observer(s) On Duty: Cathy Sakas, Leslie Sprague

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 10/14/96 - 10/20/96 Loads: 158 to 267

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 23° to 26°C Below Mid-Depth 23° to 25°C

Area(s) Worked: Section I (-20,000 to -14,000) & Section II (-14,000 to -9,000) 28°23' 96°18'

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

Comments: *On 10/13/96 Load #154 a part of one Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) was taken up in the Starboard Draghead. On 10/14/96 the rest of that same Loggerhead was taken up in the Starboard Draghead. The incident was reported for for the week of 10/8/96 to 10/13/96.

- Dredged material was sand, mud and clay.
- The second third of the Overflow screen was removed on 10/20/96 to prevent clogging as we dug the final loads of this assignment.
- Loads #158 through #239 were dug with the Starboard Dragarm only due to failure of the Port Dragarm winch. Repairs were made, and both Dragarms were in use as of Load #240.
- Sparse concentrations of jelly balls (Stomolophus meleagris) were present in the channel on the 16th, 17th and 20th.
- Biotic samples taken included: Grass, 4 conger eels, 6 marine worms, lightening whelks (empty), horse conchs (empty), 3 flounder, 1 whiting, 1 heart cockle, 1 jelly ball, 1 menhaden, 7 catfish, pear whelk, roots, 1 tonguefish, various shells
- Abiotic samples taken included: sand, mud, clay, rope, wood, metal, plastic, net, ribbon, cable, wire, foam rubber, fishing line, mesh bags, crabtrap, belt, chain, tire, battery, plastic crate

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
TT	18	58	Near Buoys 1 & 2 and 3 & 4

Observers On Duty: Leslie Sprague, Cathy Sakas