

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Mermentau* / Sabine-Naches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 03/23/97 - 03/29/97

Loads: 285-463

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 19°-21°C

Below Mid-Depth 19°-21.5°C

Area(s) Worked: STATIONS 0+00 - 50+00

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

Comments:

A KEMPS RIDLEY SEA TURTLE (LEPIDOCHELYS KEMPI) WAS SAMPLED ON
03/26/97. AT THE END OF LOAD # 376 AT APPROXIMATELY 0813 HRS THE SPECIMEN
WAS FOUND MOSTLY INTACT WITH THE LEFT DORSAL ANTERIOR AND POSTERIOR MISSING.
THE TURTLE WAS POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED, PHOTOGRAPHED, AND DEEMED A FRESH KILL.
ROB HAUCH OF USACE GALVESTON WAS IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED. THE REMAINDER OF
THE TURTLE WAS FOUND AT THE END OF LOAD # 385 ALSO IN THE PORT AFT LANDER.
SEE INCIDENT REPORTS AND DIAGRAMS FOR DETAILS.

DREDGING CONTINUES ON THE RED AND GREEN TOW LINES, MATERIAL DIGGING IS
SILT WITH SOME SOFT CLAY. BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS INCLUDE BLUE CRAB, CUTLASS
FISH, JELLYFISH, ASSORTED FISH PARTS AND SHELL. GARBAGE SAMPLES INCLUDE WOOD,
ROCK, PLASTIC, CLOTHING, ROPE/NET/LINE, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS TRASH.
EQUIPMENT AND SCREENING IS INTACT, FULLY FUNCTIONAL, AND IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN</u>

Observers On Duty: BRETT JOHNSON / CHARLOTTE CATES

DAILY REPORT

Date: 03 / 26 / 97 Loads: 368 - 392
Area(s) Worked: STA 0+00 + 50+00 / 29° 38.2' N 93° 49.4' W
Weather Conditions: THUNDERSTORMS TO CLEARING; WINDS VARIABLE 5-20 KTS; SEAS 2-4'
Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 19° - 20° C Below Mid-Depth 19° - 20° C
Condition of all screening apparatus: GOOD

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No

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

A TURTLE WAS SAMPLED DURING LOAD # 376 AT APPROX 0813 HRS. THE LEFT DORSAL ANTERIOR AND POSTERIOR WERE MISSING. THE TURTLE WAS POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS LEPIDOCHELYS KEMPI (KEMPS RIDLEY) AND WAS DEEMED A FRESH KILL. THE REMAINDER OF THE TURTLE WAS FOUND AFTER LOAD # 385. BOTH PARTS WERE FOUND IN THE PORT AFT LANDER. SEE INCIDENT REPORTS AND DIAGRAMS.

DREDGING CONTINUES ON THE RED AND GREEN TOW LINES WITH THE MATERIAL BEING SILT WITH SOME CLAY. BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS CONTINUE TO BE LIGHT IN QUANTITY CONSISTING OF BLUE CRAB, CUTLASS FISH, JELLYFISH, AND ASSORTED SHELLS. OTHER SAMPLES INCLUDE PLASTIC, ROPE/NET/LINE, WOOD, CLOTHING AND ASSORTED TRASH. EQUIPMENT AND SCREENING IS INTACT, FULLY FUNCTIONAL, AND IN GOOD WORKING ORDER. THE CREW HAS BEEN MOST ACCOMMODATING IN ALL INSTANCES.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tf</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS IN AND ABOUT WORK SITE</u>

Observer(s) On Duty: BRET JOHNSON, CHARLOTTE CATES