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ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *Athcafalaya* / Brownsville, TX
USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 29 / 97 Loads: 157 through 163

Area(s) Worked: Brownsville Entrance Channel

Weather Conditions: SSE winds 20kts, seas 3-6', clear skies

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 21°C Below Mid-Depth 20.5°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: All inflow screening in excellent working condition.

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): *A Kemp's Ridley sea turtle was found in the screening today. The specimen was dismembered and samples consisted of 4 distinct pieces. The posterior ½ of the turtle was missing. The fragments found were as follows: (1) Head, all scales missing and brain cavity exposed, oesophagus and viscera attatched, (2) Left fore flipper with a small piece of carapace attatched, (3) Right fore flipper with a small piece of carapace attatched and (4) Small part of a central or neural scute with attatched viscera. The specimen was seen in load # 160. Specimen disposed of at dump site.

Biological specimens included 24 blue crabs, 1 stingray, 4 speckled crabs, 9 skates, 3 starfish, and 1 shrimp.

Material dredged consisted primarily of sand.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tursiops truncatus	1	3±1	off port bow, spyhopping

Observer(s) On Duty: Kathy Krueger / Rory Bahadur

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Dredge *Athcafalaya* / Brownsville, TX
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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/27/97 - 5/3/97 Loads: 152 through 184

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 21°-21.5°C Below Mid-Depth 20°-21°C

Area(s) Worked: Brownsville Entrance Channel

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

Comments:

4-27 Vessel inshore due to inclement weather. No dredge activity.
4-28 Vessel left dock at 0645 and began dredging at 0746 hours.
* 4-29 A Lepidochelys Kempi (Kemp's Ridley sea turtle) was taken due to dredge activity. Details are found on the 4-29 Daily report. Reports faxed to Rob Hauch, Chris Slay, and the Gulf Coast Trailing office.
5-2 Repairs were made to the TED, approximating one hour of down time.
5-3 Dredging ceased at 1400 hours due to inclement weather.

Numerous cannonball jellyfish were sighted in the dredging area on 4-28 and 4-29.

Biological specimens included 74 blue crabs, 23 speckled crabs, 3 Atlantic guitarfish, 2 hermit crabs, 1 sculpin, 3 squid, 16 skates, 8 stingrays, 16 starfish, 5 flounders, 6 whelk, 4 shrimp, 6 sooty eels, 1 calico crab, numerous whelk egg cases, 1 spider crab, 4 jellyfish, 1 sole, and 1 herring. Other items sampled included oyster shells, trash, cable, Sargassum, sheep's wool bryozoan, rocks, bricks, plastic, and wood.

Material dredged was sand and silt. All inflow screening is in excellent condition.

There was one incident this week.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tursiops truncatus	2	27 ± 4	off port bow

Observers On Duty: Kathy Kruger, Rory Bahadur