ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: Brownsville Entrance Channel: DACW64-97-C-0007

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 4 / 29 / 97 Time(24hr) 1056

Species of Turtle Taken Lepidochelys kempii (Kemp's ridley)

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Brownsville Entrance Channel TX

Location of Take: Latitude 26° 08.99' N Longitude 97° 07.26 W

Vessel Name and Company Atchafalaya, Gulf Coast Trailing

Type of Dredging Activity Hopper Suction Dredging

Load # 160 Times: Start 0823 End 1046 Dump 1056-1059

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow,etc.) Inflow and Overflow

Samples Recovered From Aft Screening and Middle Screening

Condition of Screening Excellent

Draghead Deflector? Yes X No _____

Condition of Deflector Excellent

Weather Conditions SSE Winds 20 kts, Seas 3-4ft, Sunny Tide Flooding 1.22ft.

Water Temperature: Surface 21°C Column 20.5°C (C) or F (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled Fresh kill, No Bloating, No foul odor, Ventral skin white in color, Dark gray carapace color, Found in 4 discrete pieces as follows: Head and viscera, Right Fore flipper, Left fore flipper, Fragment of neural scute.

Measurements--

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

Head Width 9.8 cm

Plastron Length NA Width NA

Carapace S. L. Length NA S.L. Width NA

Carapace O.C. Length NA O.C. Width NA

Turtle Tagged? Yes _____ No X Tag # _____ Tag Date / /

Comments Only both fore flippers, 1 small piece of Carapace (neural scute) with attatched viscera, All measurements denoted by NA above is because the relevant pieces were not present, Two small pieces of Carapace attatched to flippers also noted.

Photographs Taken

Observer's Name Rory Bahadur and Kathryn Krueger

shade areas of turtle which are missing. Sketch cracks

Comments: F_1 - right fore flipper
C_1 - Carapacial region which is attatched to F_1 by muscle and viscera
F_2 - left fore flipper
C_2 - Piece of carapace that is attatched to F_2 by muscle and viscera
N - Neural scute - isolated and with spinal canal on underside.

F_1 Dimensions: (31.2 x 9.8) cm
F_2 Dimensions: (32.4 x 10.0) cm

- The specimen was found in 4 pieces.
- The head and neural scute and right fore flipper (F_1, C_1) were found in the aft lander.
- The left fore flipper (F_2, C_2) was found in the middle lander
- Shaded areas are absent.

Kemp Ridley Turtle Taken at Brownsville Entrance Channel by the Dredge Atchafalaya: 4/29/97, 1056 hrs.
See attatched incident report.