

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLAND

Project MATAGORDA, TX

DAILY REPORT

Date: 7/16/99

Loads: 1-6

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80°00' to -140°00' 28°24' 65 N

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau.): Clear, winds SSE 10-15 Kts 96° 18' 65 W

Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 29° Beaufort 3 temp 39°F 29° at the end of

Below Mid-Depth 29° at the jetties

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

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

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

Dredging began in the Matagorda shipping channel at 10:30 J7/10/99. The cut is approximately 1 mile long and starts outside the jetties and continues outboard. The dumpsite is 1/4 mile SW of the channel at the end of the 1 mile cut. The lat./long. at the end of the cut is 28° 24' 29 N and 96° 18' 23 W. Water temperatures will be taken as close to the mid-point of the cut as possible.

There are four discharge boxes with 4"x4" screening, these boxes have doors on top for inspection and doors in front for cleaning. These boxes often have to be inspected and cleaned several times during each load.

The material dredged is sand, silt and clay with lots wood, shell, and debris. Small catfish and whelks have been the only biological material found.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: Peter Westerman, Rory Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/17/99Loads: 7-19Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80^{too} to -140^{too}Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 85° F air temp, Winds SE 10-12 kts beavRange of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 29°C Below Mid-Depth 29°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged is a mixture of sand and silt.

Sargassum, whelks, oyster shells, wood and trash have been clogging the boxes several times each load. These are readily checked and cleaned while dredging. While there has been an abundance of debris, biological material has been sparse.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLAND

Project MATAGORDA, TX

DAILY REPORT

Date: 7 / 18 / 99 Loads: 20 - 34

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/long): Stations -80⁰ to 140⁰

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau.): Temp 85° F, Partly cloudy, winds SE 10-12 mph

Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 29° C Below Mid-Depth 29° C Beaufort

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.): _____

Material dredged varies from sand to clay
to a soupy mud

Sea grass, wood and trash are prevalent in every lead. Whelks, oyster shells and a skate were also found.

Bridge Watch Summary

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXWEEKLY SUMMARYDates: 7/16/99 - 7/18/99 Loads: 1 - 34Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 29°C Below Mid-Depth 29°CArea(s) Worked (Stations, Lat/Long): Stations -80°⁰⁰' - 140°⁰⁰' Lat/long at the end of the jetties is - 28° 24'.65 N 96° 18'.65 WAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

Comments (incidents, condition of screening, predominant biological samples, dredge material, etc):

Dredged material ranged from coarse sand in the jetties to silty sand and mud between stations -80°⁰⁰' - 140°⁰⁰'.

Biological samples were light and consisted mainly of whelks, oyster shell, *Sargassum*, catfish, cracker and assorted molluscan shell fragments.

Abiotic samples consist mainly of discarded fishing gear and rotting pieces of wood. Screens occasionally become clogged but are inspected and opened during dredging operation.

There were no incidents.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>NO SIGHTINGS.</u>			

Observers On Duty: Rory Bahadur, Peter Westerman

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/19/99Loads: 35 - 48Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80°00' to -140°00'Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 87°F, SE 10-15 kts, Beaufort 2Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 29°C Below Mid-Depth 29°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Dredged material is a mixture of sand, silt and clay.

Trash, wood and sargassum continue to be prevalent during each load. Cannonball jellyfish are seen in great numbers during certain times of the day.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenosed dolphin (T+)	1	2	near piers

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLAND

Project MATAGORDA, TX

DAILY REPORT

Date: 7/20/99

Loads: 49 - 59

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80⁺⁰⁰ to -140⁺⁰⁰

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 87°F, winds SE/SW 10-15 kts, beau -2

Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface _____ Below Mid-Depth _____

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

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

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

Material dredged is a combination of sand, silt and clay.

Oyster shells, whelks and a large stingray were found in the screening. The discharge boxes continue to clog with sargassum, wood and shell debris. Large numbers of jellyfish have been in the waters for 3 days.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: Westerman Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/21/99 Loads: 60-73Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80° to -140°Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 85°F, winds SE 10-15, Beaufort 2Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 29°C Below Mid-Depth 29°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged is a combination of sand, silt and clay.

Only small amounts of biological debris were found, these included whelks, sea grass, oyster shells and a croaker.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenosed dolphin (T+)	1	6-8	spotted near jetties

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/22/99 Loads: 74 - 86Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80° to -140°Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 89°F, winds SE 10-12 kts, Beaufort 2Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30°C Below Mid-Depth 29°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged is mixture of sand, silt and clay.

Very little debris was found in the screening.
Cannonball jellyfish are seen in large numbers.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahader

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/23/99Loads: 87 - 95Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/long): Stations -80⁺⁰⁰ to -140⁺⁰⁰Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau.): 91°F, winds SSE 10 kts, Beaufort 2Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 29°C Below Mid-Depth 29°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged is mostly sand with some silt
Whelks and sargassum were the only biological material found in the screening. Although sealife seems to be teeming around the vessel certain times of the day.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenosed dolphin (Tt)	6	15-18	seen at 1800 around the jetties
Manta ray	1	1	jumped near the jetties

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/12/99 Loads: 96 - 101Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80°oo to -140°ooWeather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau.): 90°F, winds Variable, Beaufort 1Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30°C Below Mid-Depth 30°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged is sand, silt and clay.Biological material included large amounts of Sargassum, which held many small catfish and crabs. Cannonball jellyfish are prevalent throughout the bay.Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenosed Dolphin	4	10-12	around the piers at 1600
Pilot Whales	1	3	in the channel at 1630

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/25/99Loads: 102 - 111Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/long): Stations ~80°oo to -140°ooWeather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau.): 90°F, Winds SE 10-12 Kts, Beaufort 2Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30°c Below Mid-Depth 30°cCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged was sand clay and silt.
Whelks, sargassum, oyster shells croakers and small catfish were found in the screening along with wood debris and fishing gear.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXWEEKLY SUMMARYDates: 7, 19, 99 - 7, 25, 99 Loads: 35 - 111Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 29°-30°C Below Mid-Depth 29°-30°CArea(s) Worked (Stations, Lat/Long): Stations: 30°¹⁰⁰ - 50°¹⁰⁰ and -80°¹⁰⁰ to -140°¹⁰⁰Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

Comments (incidents, condition of screening, predominant biological samples, dredge material, etc): _____

Dredged material varied with area and ranged from dense clay to coarse sand to silt. Close to the jetties material also contained shell fragments.

Biological samples retained by screening continued to be light. Scraggum was the predominant sample. Also observed was a stingray, crabs, whelks, bivalve shells, catfish and juvenile croakers.

Abiotic material consisted mainly of rope, discarded fishing gear and decaying wood.

Screening is in excellent condition. Screening continues to clog occasionally and is inspected and cleaned during dredging.

There were no incidents.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenose dolphin	13	35±3	In channel with tail slapping, breaching and milling behaviors observed.
Pilot whale	1	3	In channel at 1630 hrs 7/24/99
Manta Ray	1	1	Jumped clear of water near jetties.

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/26/99 Loads: 112 - 125Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80+00 to -140+00 to -200+00Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau.): 91°F, winds SW 10-15, Beaufort 2-3Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30°C Below Mid-Depth 30°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged was sand, clay and silt.Sargassum, wood, rope, trash and tires were found in the dragheads and screening.Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Bottlenosed dolphin (T+)</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10-12</u>	<u>seen near the dumpsite</u>

Observers On Duty: P. WESTERMAN, R. BAHADUR

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/27/99Loads: 126 - 137Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -140⁺⁰⁰ to -200⁺⁰⁰Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 89° F, winds SW 10-15, beau - 2Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30° C Below Mid-Depth 30° CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged was sand, silt and clay.Sargassum and some small calfish were found in the discharge boxes. The usual assortment of rope, rags and fishing gear and wood were also found. The numbers of Cannonball jellyfish has dropped significantly.Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLAND

Project MATAGORDA, TX

DAILY REPORT

Date: 7 / 28 / 99 Loads: 138 - 151

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -140° to -200°

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 88°F, Winds SSE/SW 10-15 Beaufort

Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30°C Below Mid-Depth 30°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

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

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

Material dredged is a mixture of sand, silt and clay

Biological material included sargassum, whelks and a skate. Also found in the screening was wood fishing gear some trash.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Bottlenosed dolphin</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>near the dumpsite</u>

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 7/29/99Loads: 152 - 166Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -140⁺⁰⁰ to -200⁺⁰⁰Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 87°F, winds SE 10-12 Beav, 2Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30°C Below Mid-Depth 29°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged is a mixture of sand, silt and claySmall amounts of sargassum, and 10-20 6" catfish were found in the discharge boxes. Cannonball jellyfish were seen, but only in small numbers.Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenosed dolphin (T)	1	6-8	swimming in between the dr and the channel.

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLAND

Project MATAGORDA, TX

DAILY REPORT

Date: 7/30/99 Loads: 167 - 177

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80°E to -140°E to -100°E

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 89°F, winds SSE 15-18 Kts, clear

Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30°F Below Mid-Depth 30°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Material dredged is sand silt and clay.

Cuttlefish, blue crab, catfish and large amounts of Sargassum were found in the discharge boxes.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenosed dolphin	Tt 1	10-12	near dumpsite

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLAND

Project MATAGORDA, TX

DAILY REPORT

Date: 7/31/99 Loads: 178 - 190

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations -80° to -140° to -200°

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 89° F, winds SSE 15-18 kts, beau 3

Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30° C Below Mid-Depth 30° 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.): _____

Material dredged was mostly sand and silt

Sargassum was found in small quantities along with a few cutlass fish and catfish.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenosed dolphin	3	10-15	in the channel and dump area from 1800-1900 hrs.

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLAND

Project MATAGORDA, TX

DAILY REPORT

Date: 8/11/99

Loads: 191 - 197

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/long): Stations : 108°00' to 136°00' to 174°00'

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 85° F, winds S \bar{E} 10-15, beau - 2

Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30° C Below Mid-Depth 30° C

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

Below Mid-Depth 30°

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

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

Material dredged was sand, shell and silt.

Only sparse debris was found in the discharge boxes except for inside the getties when shelf debris clogged the boxes several times

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenosed dolphin (M)	4	12-15	seen inbetween the getties and dumpsite around 1800 hrs

Observers On Duty: Westerman, Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXWEEKLY SUMMARYDates: 7/26/99 - 8/1/99 Loads: 112 - 197Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 27°-30°C Below Mid-Depth 29°-30°CArea(s) Worked (Stations, Lat/Long): STATIONS 30° 00' - 140° 00' - 200° 00'Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No +

Comments (incidents, condition of screening, predominant biological samples, dredge material, etc):

Material dredged was very fine sand and silt.Biological samples retained by inflow screening remain light. Sargassum was the predominant sample. Other biota included a large stingray, cunner, juvenile clupeid fish, blue crabs, cutlass fish, whelks, oysters and fragmented gastropod and lamellibranch shells.Abiotic samples consisted of mooring line, wood, trash, rags and discarded commercial and recreational fishing gear.Screening is in excellent condition and the frequency of clogging has decreased.There were no incidents involving threatened or endangered species.Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Bottlenose dolphin (Tt)	8	52 ± 3	Seen throughout the channel and its vicinity.

Observers On Duty: R. BAHTADUR, P. WESTERMAN

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 8/2/99 Loads: 198 - 208Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): Stations 108° to 174°Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 85°F, winds SE 10-15, beau 2Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30°C Below Mid-Depth 30°CCondition of all screening apparatus: goodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

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

Material dredged was sand and silt.Oyster shells, small cutlass fish and a few whelks were found. Otherwise debris was spalBridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: Westerman Bahadur

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXDAILY REPORTDate: 8/13/97Loads: 209 - 217Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Lon): Stations 108°00' - 174°00'CWeather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): 87°F, SF 5-12, Seas Beaufort 2-3Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30 Below Mid-Depth 30Condition of all screening apparatus: GoodAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No ✓

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

Material dredged was sand and silt
Biological samples included cutlass fish, oyster shells and whelks
Other debris in screening consisted of assorted trash.

There were no incidents.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
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Observers On Duty: Bahadur, Westerman

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge SUGAR ISLANDProject MATAGORDA, TXWEEKLY SUMMARYDates: 8/2/99 - 8/8/99 Loads: 198 - 217Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 30 Below Mid-Depth 30Area(s) Worked (Stations, Lat/Long): Stations 50°⁰⁰' - 140°⁰⁰'Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No X

Comments (incidents, condition of screening, predominant biological samples, dredge material, etc):

Material dredged was silt and sand.

The accumulation of biota in inflow screening was light. Samples consisted of Syngnathus, cutlass fish, whelks, oyster shells and fragmented bivalve and gastropod shells.

Screening also trapped assorted trash consisting mainly of discarded fishing gear, rope and bags.

DREDGING OPERATIONS CEASED AT 11RS. ON 8/3/98
OBSERVERS DISEMBARKED AT THIS TIME.

There were no incidents ..

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>NO SIGHTINGS.</u>			

Observers On Duty: Babakur, Westerman