

# PRELIMINARY REPORT ON OPERATION OF HOPPER DREDGES

## IN THE FREEPORT HARBOR CHANNEL PROJECT

JULY 2000 – AUGUST 2000

On July 30, 2000 the contract hopper dredge *Stuyvesant* began work on the Entrance and Jetty Channels of the Freeport Harbor Project. Contract specifications required dredging an estimated 757,000 cubic yards (CY) of shoal material. The required depth of dredging was 49 feet below Mean Low Tide (MLT, Corps of Engineers Datum), with 2 feet of allowable overdepth dredging along the Entrance Channel and 47 feet MLT with 2 feet of overdepth along the Jetty Channel.

Dredging began on July 30, 2000, and was completed on August 28, 2000. A total of 452 loads of dredged material were collected and deposited into Placement Area No. 1-A. Dredging was performed between Stations 59+62 and 95+67 along the Jetty Channel and from -110+00 to -200+00 along the Entrance Channel. A total of 1,859,847 CY of material were excavated from this project.

The dredge was equipped with rigid draghead turtle deflectors, and 100% inflow screening with a 4-inch square mesh. NMFS-approved turtle observers provided 24-hour/day monitoring of dragheads and screens for each load cycle. The observers were employed by Coastwise Consulting, Inc. under a subcontract to the dredging contractor, Bean-Stuyvesant L.L.C.

During the performance of this dredging, two loggerhead sea turtle takes were documented. The first take occurred on August 10, 2000 in load No. 207. This turtle was found alive, however, it died prior to transport to a rehabilitation facility. The second take occurred on August 15, 2000 in load No. 295. The water temperature during these takes was 29°C - 30°C. The water temperature ranged from 27°C - 32°C throughout the duration of this dredging. A copy of the daily and weekly observer reports is enclosed.