ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Stuyvesant

Project: Freeport Entrance Channel, Texas

DAILY REPORT

Date 8 / 10 / 00 Load Numbers 203-220

Area(s) Worked sections: 1, 2, 4

Weather Conditions (incl. sea conditions) winds = NE @ 5-10, seas = 1-3, clear sky

Range of Water Temp., Surface 29°C Below Mid-Depth 29°C

Condition and Effectiveness of Screening good

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? (YES) NO

Comments (details of turtle takes or whale sightings, dredged material, screening, biological by-catch, etc.):

A sub-adult male Loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta) was picked up in load #207 at 05:30. The turtle was alive upon initial discovery, but had a large crack on the right side of its carapace. Within 1/2 hour, there were no signs of life. Although treated as if alive during transport to NMFS in Galveston, it was deemed dead on arrival. A necropsy was performed (within 11:00 hrs) by Andrea Cannon (assisted by Ann Kidwell + Meghan Piercy). It was determined that the turtle died of bleeding from a laceration of the liver. Damage was also sustained by the left lung. Contents of the digestive tract included: sargassum, plastics, barnacles, sea squirts and nylon rope. It should be noted that the captain and crew of the Stuyvesant, and the crewboat driver of the River Runner, were very helpful and professional in this situation.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Animals	Time / Location / Comments
Frigatebird	2	14:30 / Soaring 1/4 mi. E of dredge in section 1
Tursiops truncatus	4	16:30 / In Channel

Observer(s) on duty Meghan Piercy and Rick Wood

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Stuyvesant

Project: Freeport Entrance Channel, Texas

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates 8 / 6 / 00 - 8 / 12 / 00 Load Numbers 131 - 254

Range of Water Temp., Surface 29° - 30°C Below Mid-Depth 28°-29°C

Areas Worked (lat/longs, stations) sections 1,2,3,4

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? (YES) NO

Comments (turtle takes, whale sightings, effectiveness of screening, by-catch, material, other info):

There was one turtle take this week. A subadult male Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) was picked up on 8/10/2000 in load # 207@05:30. The turtle was alive upon discovery, but had a severe crack in it's carapace, just to the right of it's backbone. Although signs of life disappeared, the turtle was taken to the NMFS re-hab center in Galveston where it was pronounced dead. A necropsy was performed at 11:00 by Andrea Cannon, assisted by Ann Kidwell (also of NMFS) and turtle observer Meghan Piercy. It was determined that the turtle died of bleeding from a laceration of the liver. There was also damage to the left lung. A large quantity of blood clots were found amidst the intestines and internal organs. Contents of the digestive tract included: large quantities of sargassum, plastic, sea squirts, barnacles, and nylon rope. Some of the barnacles on the carapace were still alive during the necropsy. It should be noted that the Captain and crew of the Stuyvesant, and the crewboat driver (Mike) of the River Runner, were very helpful and professional during the entire incident. Dredged material in sections 1,2,3 was, as before, mainly clay & some mud. Section 4 has yielded mostly mud & some clay. Biota retained screenings included: sargassum, ribbonfish, whelk egg cases, king mackerel, catfish, skates, skate egg cases, Blue crab, Spider crab, and wood.

Bridge Watch Summary

Date	Various Species and Respective Number	Comments
8 / 6	Frigatebird (1) / Tursiops truncatus (6)	in section 3
8 / 7	Tursiops truncatus (Bottlenose Dolphin (4)	in section 2
8 / 9	Tursiops truncatus (≈20)	in section 3
8 / 10	Frigatebird (2) / Tursiops truncatus	in & above section 4
8 / 11	Tursiops truncatus (10) / Brown Pelican (1 in hopper)	in section 4 / bird survived
8 / 12	Tursiops truncatus (20-25)	most around jetties, 2 in sec. 4
/		

Observers on duty Meghan Piercy and Rick Woods