

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON OPERATION OF HOPPER DREDGES  
IN THE SABINE-NECHES WATERWAY PROJECT

MAY - JUNE, 2001

On May 12, 2001, the contract hopper dredge *B.E. Lindholm* began work on the Sabine Pass Outer Bar, and Sabine Bank Channels of the Sabine-Neches Waterway Project. Contract specifications required dredging an estimated 3,928,000 cubic yards (CY) of shoal material. The required depth of dredging was 44 feet below Mean Low Tide (MLT, Corps of Engineers Datum), with 2 feet of allowable overdepth dredging.

Dredging began on May 12, 2001, and was completed on June 18, 2001. Dredging operations were continuous during this time period. A total of 568 loads of dredged material were collected and deposited into Placement Area Nos. 3 and 4. Dredging was performed between Stations 0+000 and 50+000; a total of 4,063,603 CY of material was 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, Weeks Marine, Inc.

During the performance of this dredging, no lethal turtle takes were experienced. The water temperature ranged from 24°C - 30°C at both the surface, and below mid-depth. When the work began, the below mid-depth temperature was generally 1 to 2°C cooler than the surface temperature. As the job progressed the temperature of cooler water gradually approached that of the surface water. A copy of the daily and weekly observer reports is enclosed.