

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Project: Dodge Island - Brownsville channel

Date 12/08/03 Load # 37 Times (24hr): Start 1415 End 2008 Dump 2103

Species of Turtle Taken Chelonia mydas

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Brownsville channel

Location of Take (degrees, decimal minutes) Lat N 26° 03.364 Long W 97° 11.051

Location of Take (stations #'s and/or buoys) station 7

Vessel Name and Company Dodge Island - Great Lakes Dredge and Ports

Type of Dredging Activity (chan. maint., chan. constr., beach fill, etc) Channel Maintenance

Type of Material clay

Other Biota in Screening sea grass, sea weed, hard head catfish, eels, rays

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow, etc.) forward inflow, skimmer outflow

Samples Recovered From Fresh/whole Green sea turtle, dead, broken cervical vertebrae, cracks in plastron, good condition

Condition of Screening forward inflows - closed + 100% effective, skimmers(outflows) - 100% effect

Draghead Deflector? Yes X No _____ Condition of Deflectors Good

Weather/Sea Surface Conditions P. Cloudy, SE winds to 10 Knts, 3-4 ft seas

Tidal Stage / Flow + 1.5 ft

Water Temperature, Centigrade: Surface 20.5° Column (& approx. depth taken) 20.5°C at 5 ft

Condition/Description of Specimen(s) Sampled and Other Comments

Fresh, whole, dead green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) taken with a broken cervical vertebrae, and one small crack on plastron. Taken in good condition, small tissue sample from right front flipper taken.

* Corps of Engineers gave order to continue dredging w/ aft boxes open ^{inflow}

Measurements (also sketch detail on diagram page):

Give estimate of entire carapace dimensions, as well as fragments sampled, in metric when possible:

Head Width 5.75 cm Fore Flipper Length (rear insertion to tip) _____

Plastron Length 28.575 cm Width 30.73 cm

Carapace S. L. Length 34.036 cm S.L. Width 28.7 cm

Carapace O.C. Length 38.1 cm O.C. Width 32

Turtle Tagged? Yes _____ No X Location of Tag _____ Tag # _____

Observer(s) On Duty Ravi Kumar + Jim Troutman

Additional Comments - Daily Report 12/8/03 - Dodge Island, Brownsville
channel, Tx

1 Chelonia mydas was taken in the forward starboard inflow box after corps of engineers had given the order to open aft inflow boxes. From the onset of the project, screening in the aft inflow boxes had been 0% effective due to tightly packed clay build-up. Clogs would take place every 10 minutes of dredging, and would be so tightly packed that ~~the~~ aft inflow boxes were completely unobservable. Any turtle taken deposited in ~~the~~ aft inflow boxes would have been encased in clay & ~~had~~ sunk to bottom of the hopper after being flushed. With the aft inflow boxes open, turtles taken by the dredge will either be caught in the 100% screened forward inflow boxes (as was the turtle taken on 12/8/03) or expelled into the hopper through the aft inflow boxes (open) and caught in the 100% screened forward outflow skimmers. Before opening aft inflows, screening of dredge material was limited to 50%. After ~~inflows~~ aft inflows were open, screening of dredge material was increased to greater than 50% with 100% screening of forward inflow boxes and 100% screening of outflow skimmers. Turtles expelled into the hopper freely have a greater chance of being caught in outflow screens, than turtles encased in clay build-ups which sink to the bottom. Dredging operations have continued w/ aft inflows open with permission of Corps of Army Engineers.