

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
SEA TURTLE INCIDENTAL TAKE DATA FORM

PROJECT NAME: Galveston Bay Entrance
USACE DISTRICT: Galveston DREDGE: Bay Port

DATE: 06/11/04 Time turtle take recovered (24hr): 1910 Turtle take # for project: 1

LOAD #: 197 Times (24hrs): Start 1710 End 1905 Load start date 06/11/04

SPECIES OF TURTLE TAKE: Unknown Loggerhead Green Kemp's ridley Hawksbill Leatherback

Channel location of take: Latitude 29° 20.636'N Longitude 94° 43.844'W
29° 20.518'N 94° 43.844'W

Other location / Channel description (e.g. buoy markers, station numbers): 10+000 - 10+015

Location take recovered on dredge: on aft skimmer

Number of dragheads in use at time of incident: 2 Draghead deflector? YES NO

Condition of deflector: good Condition of screening: good

Beaufort Sea State: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Wind Direction SE
WATER TEMP: Surface 28 °C/F Column (mid-depth) _____ °C/F Bottom _____ °C/F
AIR TEMP: 90 F

Condition of specimen: missing portions of carapace and plastron but otherwise intact, the shell was crushed, probably due to being pushed through 4" screening but it was still connected, it is believed to be a fresh dead based on the presence of blood in and around innards
0 = Alive; 1 = Fresh dead; 2 = Moderately decomposed; 3 = Severely decomposed; 4 = skeleton/old bone; 5 = undetermined

Sex: M F UN How determined? _____ Age class: Juv Sub-Adult Adult UN

Measurements: Circle units

Plastron Length: _____ cm/in	Head Width: <u>9</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in
Carapace Straight Length: _____ cm/in	Plastron Width: _____ cm/in
Carapace Curved Length: <u>37</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in	Carapace Straight Width: <u>33</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in
	Carapace Curved Width: <u>34</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in

Measurement/description of part: _____

Genetic samples taken: YES NO Photos taken: YES NO

Turtle tagged?: YES NO Tag type: _____ Tag #: _____ Tag date: _____

Final disposition of specimen: weighted and then disposed at at dump site

Comments: The overall look of the turtle was that of a Kemp's Ridley. The coloration was olive greenish with a lighter underside, there were intramarginal poles, an alveolar groove was present. But unlike the Kemp's this turtle also had 2 claws on both fore and hind flippers, as well as 5 prefrontal scales, which are characteristics associated with a Loggerhead turtle and not a Kemp's Ridley. This turtle may be a hybrid of the two species or just a Kemp's Ridley with developmental mutations. A DNA analysis will be necessary to make a positive id. The head width is actual, but all other measurements are estimated.
Use diagrams forms to illustrate specimen/part recovered comments continued...

Observer(s) On Duty: JULIE CRAIG, AUCIA LEFTWICH, ANDREW JACKSON

because the shell was so damaged that accurate measurements were not possible. Two genetic samples were taken, which will be sent for analysis to determine the actual species.

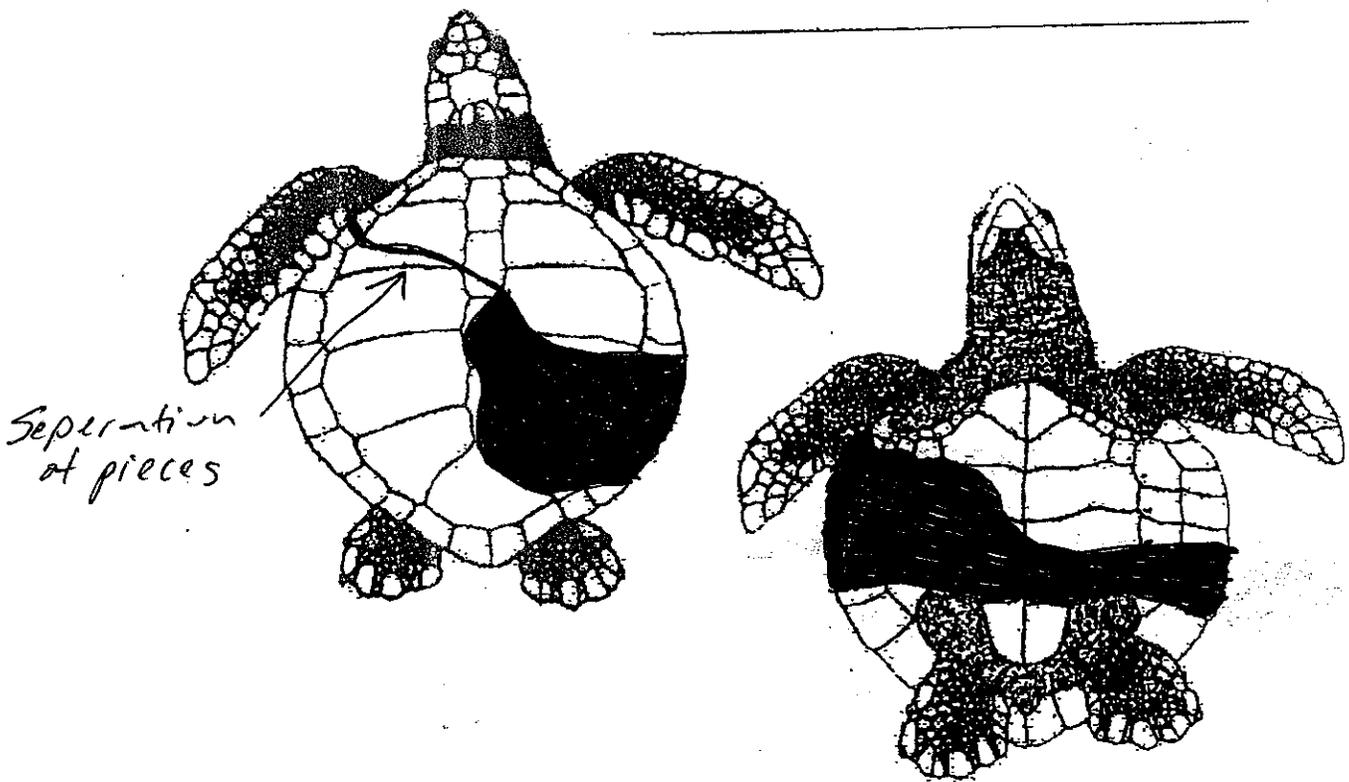
The turtle was found in two separate pieces, which were small enough to be forced through 4" x 4" screening. This was evident by the fact that the shell was crushed significantly and flattened out. The fact that the turtle pieces were found on the overflow screening indicates the effectiveness of the secondary screening in withholding samples that have passed through 4" x 4" screening due to small sample size and water pressure.

Please see attached comments by Andrew Jackson.

Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*)

Shade areas of turtle that are missing; sketch cracks and lacerations

- Comments:
- 5 to 6 prefrontal scales
 - pores seen on inframarginals
 - 2 claws on both fore and hind flippers
 - no deep alveolar groove visible, but present
 - olive greenish - pale green coloring



Diagrams by Tom McFarland

The overall look of the turtle would lead one to say the specimen was a Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*). However, after a detailed examination of diagnostic characteristics associated with the turtle, a couple of conclusions about the identification can be made. A couple of the characteristics were out of line with those usually associated with Kemp's Ridley sea turtles. First, Kemp's usually have one claw on each of the fore-flippers. This specimen has two claws on each of the fore-flippers. Second, Kemp's usually have four prefrontal scales. This specimen has five with one of those nearly split in two making six prefrontal scales. The characteristics out of line in this turtle are ones which are usually associated with Loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*). Loggerheads typically have four, sometimes five, prefrontal scales and two claws on each of the fore-flippers. There have been turtles found which were thought to be hybrids (*Lepidochelys kempii* X *Caretta caretta*). This specimen may be a hybrid or simply an individual with developmental mutations. Because of the overall look and presence of all the diagnostic characteristics associated with Kemp's, this specimen is most likely an individual with developmental mutations. However, DNA analysis will be necessary to make a positive identification.

Observer: Andrew Jackson Dredge Newport