TURTLE

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Newport

Project: St. Simon's Channel, Brunswick, GA

DAILY REPORT

Date 1 / 5 / 00 Load Numbers 167 - 177

Area(s) Worked Stations: -34+00 to -40+00

Weather Conditions (incl. sea conditions) clear sky, seas=2-4, wind=NE-NW@ 10-20 knots

Range of Water Temp., Surface 54°-56°F Below Mid-Depth

Condition and Effectiveness of Screening EXCELLENT

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 subadult Loggerhead Sea Turtle (Caretta caretta) was found in the port forward inflow screening upon completion of load # 173. See attached incident report for more details.

Other biological specimens retained included: Horseshoe crabs, Whelks, Blue crab and wood. A living eel was found on deck and returned to sea.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Animals	Time / Location / Comments
Tursiops truncatus	10	12:20-13:15/ 1 fishing with gannets/ a mother/calf pair/ 3 fishing on shoal including one with a stubbed dorsal fin.

Observer(s) on duty M. Pierey, J. MacKinnon

Week 4

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Newport

Project: St. Simon's Channel, Brunswick, GA

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates 1 / 3 / 00 - 1 / 9 / 00 Load Numbers 150 - 202

Range of Water Temp., Surface 51° - 56.5°F Below Mid-Depth

Areas Worked (lat/longs, stations): Stn: -24+00 to -34+00, -34+00 to -40+00, 16+75 to 19+50, 15+00 to 23+00, -34+00 to -38+0

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **YES** **NO**

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

There were 3 incidents involving 2 Loggerhead sea turtles:

① - 1/3/00: The rear flippers of a (probably juvenile) Caretta caretta were found in the port foreward inflow of load #152. This was a fresh kill.

② - 1/4/00: Fragments of a Caretta caretta carapace were found in starboard forward inflow of load #163. These included 2 vertebral scutes with vertebrae and viscera and 2 pieces of costal scutes. These more than likely belong to the same turtle as the one found on 1/5/00 (given the presence of viscera).

③ - 1/5/00: The carcas of a subadult Caretta caretta was found in the forward port inflow of load #173. It was missing vertebral and costal scutes and was a fresh kill.

After the turtle take on 1/5/00, the dredge began work at Cedar Hammock, located inshore, in attempt to avoid more turtle takes while waiting for a cold front to move in. According to ACOE personell, no turtles have been caught there in the past. Water temperatures appear to increase with the ebb tide and decrease with the flood tide (and have all along... I just thought it might be worth mentioning).

Other biological specimens retained included: Horseshoe crabs (lots), Blue crabs, whelks, whelk eggs, sea pork, Horse conch, sea pork, shrimp, sea stars, scallops, sea whip, eel, flounder, jellies, small shark (dogfish?) and sea grass. Most specimens come from "offshore" while inshore specimens include mostly sea grass and Horseshoe crabs.

Bridge Watch Summary

Date	Various Species and Respective Number	Comments
1 / 3	Tursiops truncatus - 2 adults on shoal	
1 / 4	Common Loon - 2 in winter plumage flying south between channel and disposal area.	
1 / 5	Tursiops truncatus - 10 (fishing on shoal with Gannets, m/c pair + 1 w/ stumped dorsal fin)	chunk missing
1 / 6	Tursiops truncatus - 4 (2 near dump, 2 near Jeckyll Island pier)	
1 / 7	Tursiops truncatus - 4 (lots of thrashing, mother/calf pair present)	
1 / 8	Tursiops truncatus - 3 (between Jeckyll Island pier and buoy 22)	
/		

Observers on duty Meghan Piercy, Jan Mackinnon