ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: Savannah Harbor Entrance Channel, GA

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACIVITY

Date 03/07/01 Time(24hr) 2030

Species of Turtle Taken Caretta caretta (Loggerhead Sea Turtle)

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Savannah Harbor Entrance Channel, Georgia

Location of Take: Latitude 31°59.8'N Longitude 080°47.1'W

Vessel Name and Company Dredge B.E. Lindholm • Weeks Marine Incorporated

Type of Dredging Activity Maintenance

Load # 282 Times: Start 1720 End 2010 Dump

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow, etc.) overflow, inflow

Samples Recovered From visor of the port drag head

Condition of Screening Good

Draghead Deflector? Yes ✓ No

Condition of Deflector Good

Weather Conditions clear sky, seas: 0-1', south wind @ 10 knots

Water Temperature: Surface 56°F Column 55°F C or F (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled Fresh turtle. Still alive. Crushed head, large crack in carapace and plastron with profuse bleeding indicated imminent and certain death.

Measurements—

Give estimate of entire carapace dimensions, as well as fragments sampled (in metric when possible, indicate if not):

Head Width N/A

Plastron Length 62 cm Width 62 cm

Carapace S. L. Length 75 cm S. L. Width 61 cm

Carapace O. C. Length 82.5 cm O. C. Width 76 cm

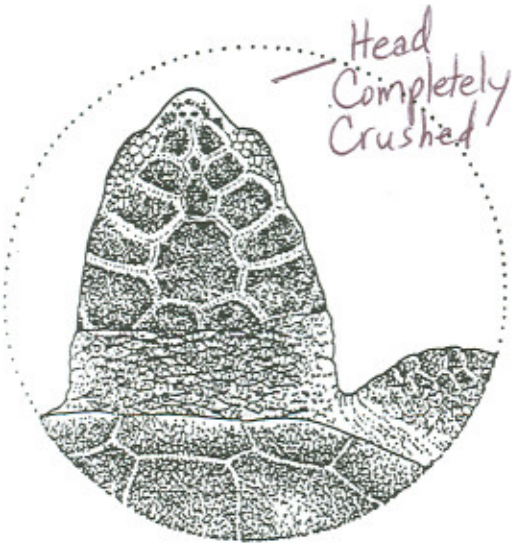
Turtle Tagged? Yes No X Tag # Tag Date / /

Comments The turtles right front flipper was pinched and stuck under the visor of the drag head. This was the second turtle take within 24 hours. Upon discovery of the turtle, the dredge immediately anchored at the disposal area to await further orders. Identification based on nonfous coloration, 5 costal scutes and three inframarginals without pores.

Observer's Name(s) Meghan Piercy, Chris Carroll

Caretta caretta (loggerhead)

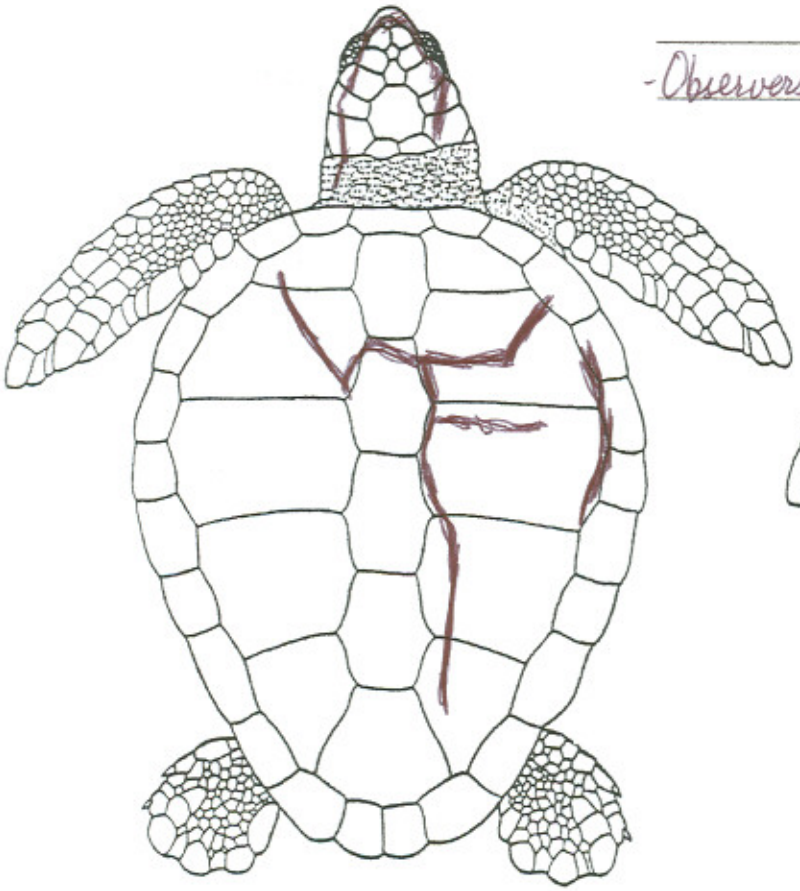
Shade areas of turtle that are missing. Sketch cracks and lacerations.

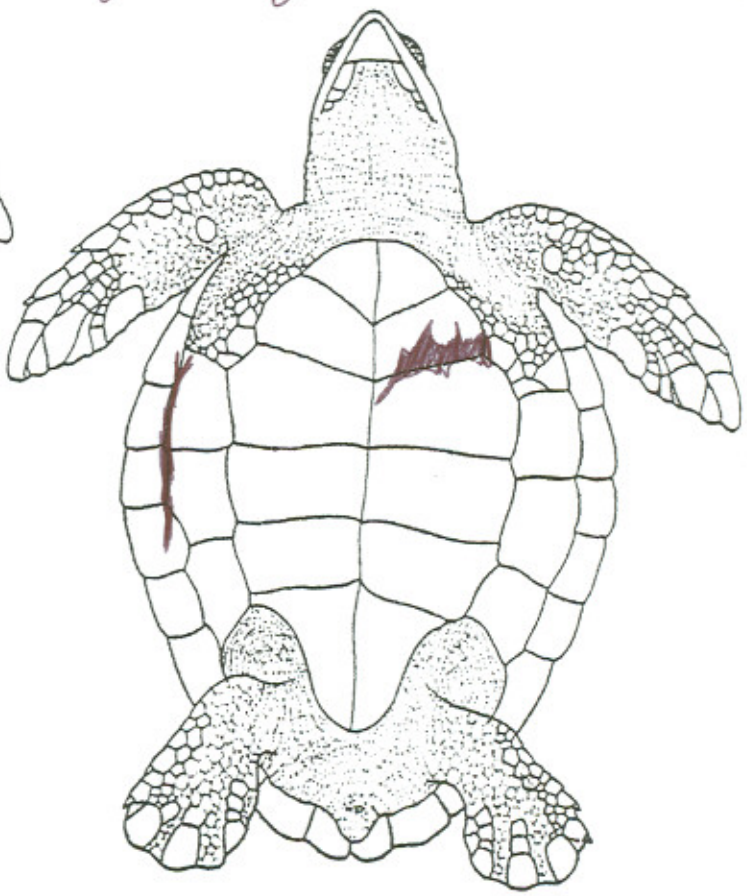


Comments: 07 March, 2001

- Savannah Harbor Entrance Channel
- Dredge B.E. Lindholm
- Load # 282
- Animal found pinched between visor and draghead on port side of ship
- Head Completely crushed
- Profuse bleeding
- Animal moving when discovered but death was imminent

-Observers: Meghan Piercy, Chris Carroll





Diagrams by Tom McFarland