

School of Veterinary Science

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H272	Date Sent:	Accession No.: 55811
----------------------	------------	----------------------

To: [REDACTED]
Kaikoura

Report Sent: 10/05/2018

Copy To:

Email:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Juvenile - 0.825m total length; weight 7.8kg (but scavenged/decomposed)	Sex: Male		
Owner: Department of Conservation	Type: Post Mortem		
ID:	Prev. Accn.:		
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

Gross Findings

This calf was moderately decomposed and had been scavenged. The majority of the skin had sloughed so could not be fully assessed. Superficial scavenging was present around the anogenital area and belly, with more marked scavenging and decomposition around the head. The upper teeth had erupted but not the lower teeth. The blubber was partially liquefied. The oral cavity and throat were almost completely scavenged, including the trachea and part of the lungs. The stomach contained only copepods (post-mortem invaders), and no nematodes were present. The intestines contained scant yellow/brown liquid digesta. Abdominal organs were moderately decomposed and easily crushed on handling. The remaining lung tissue was well inflated.

Histopathology

Multiple tissues were examined but all were too decomposed to allow detailed interpretation

Provisional Diagnosis

Open - too decomposed for diagnosis

Comments

This young dolphin was in an advanced state of decomposition. Histology was unable to shed any light on the cause of death due to tissue decomposition.

Date: 04/05/2018	Pathologists: [REDACTED]
Students:	