Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences
Massey University

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Final
Date: 14/02/2017
Type: Mortality

Submitter

Department of Conservation

Submission Details

Lab. Case/Spec ID:	**54221**
Submitter's Ref:	H261
Date Submitted:	08/02/2017
Date Received:	10/02/2017
Previous Case ID:	
WMD Case/Spec ID:	7557/1

Animal Details

Animal ID:	H261
Animal Name:	W17-02Ch
Species:	*Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori*
Common Name:	Hector's Dolphin
Sex Class:	Male
Age Class:	Adult
Date Died:	08/02/2017

Epidemiology

Number Dead:	
Number at Risk:	
Number Sick:	
Number Submitted:	1

Growth and Development

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.034 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Dorsal Blubber Depth		14 mm	10/02/2017	Adult
Eye to Blowhole Length		.141 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.034 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Girth at Anus		.49 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Girth at Eye		.58 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Girth at Flippers		.845 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Girth at Navel		.891 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Height of Dorsal Fin		.1 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Lateral Blubber Depth		12 mm	10/02/2017	Adult
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.214 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Length of Flipper		.19 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Length of Flukes		.12 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Snout to Anus Length		.97 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.164 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.785 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.635 m	10/02/2017	Adult

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.325 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Total Length	1.292 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Ventral Blubber Depth	17 mm	10/02/2017	Adult
Width of Flipper	.08 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Width of Flukes	.444 m	10/02/2017	Adult
Weight	kg	10/02/2017	Adult

DIAGNOSIS
Known bycatch

COMMENTS
This dolphin was in good body condition, with recently ingested prey in the stomach and no evidence of infectious or other disease. These findings are consistent with the history (found in fishing net). It is useful to note that there were no distinctive marks of net entanglement, and that there was no foam or fluid in the lungs. Some studies have suggested fluid in the lungs is a strong indicator of entanglement, but in our experience this change is frequently absent in known bycaught Hector's dolphins.
Histology did not show any evidence of underlying disease.

ANIMAL HISTORY
Known bycatch

GROSS PATHOLOGY
This adult male dolphin arrived chilled, wrapped in multiple layers of plastic sealed by packing tape. The body was in a good state of preservation, and the body condition was good. There were numerous semi-circular lacerations over the body, as well as full thickness circular defects through the skin and blubber, exposing underlying muscle (likely "cookie cutter" shark scavenging). Faint linear impressions were present in the skin over the tail stock, fins and head. None were encircling. The dorsal fin had a healed V-shaped defect, and there were several short lacerations in the leading edges of the flippers.
Flensing revealed haemorrhage into the blubber and superficial muscle layers over the left side of the skull immediately behind the blowhole. The right lung lobe was hyperinflated; the left lobe was well aerated. There was no foam or fluid in the airways. The stomach contained 11 fresh squid, several pieces of fish flesh and multiple fish bones and squid beaks. There were no other significant gross findings.

HISTOPATHOLOGY
No indication of underlying disease or other abnormalities