

School of Veterinary Science

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H276	Date Sent: 13/12/2018	Accession No.: 56787
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To: [REDACTED]
Department of Conservation
Auckland

Report Sent: 18/12/2018
Copy To: [REDACTED]

Email:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Maui dolphin		
Age: Neonate	Sex: Unknown		
Owner: Department of Conservation	Type: Post Mortem		
ID: H276	Prev. Accn.:		
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Found on 11/12/2018, reported and retrieved 12/12/18. Packed (chilled) and transported to Massey University. Based on geographic location a tentative identification of Maui dolphin has been made; confirmation of this status requires genetic analysis.

Gross Findings

This young dolphin presented in an extreme state of decomposition. There were a large number of variably sized maggots over the carcass. Most of the skin had been lost, and the remainder was dessicated, with near-complete liquefaction of the underlying blubber. All skin and blubber over the lower half of the head was missing, and mandibles were exposed, joined to the temporal area only by thin remnants of soft tissue. No recognisable internal organs remained. Absence of the reproductive tract and anogenital area meant that the sex of the animal could not be determined.

The total length was 725mm, consistent with a newborn or very young animal. The majority of standard morphometric measurements were not reliable due to the extreme decomposition.

Remaining valid measurements:

Dorsal fin length at base = 110mm

height = 450 mm

Fluke length = 70 mm

depth of fluke notch = 17mm

Diagnosis

Open - too decomposed

Comments

The state of decomposition of this dolphin means that it is not possible to assess the cause of death, nor to evaluate for any evidence of human interaction.

Date: 18/12/2018	Pathologists: [REDACTED]
Students:	