

Pathology Report

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| Submitter Ref.: H278 | Date Sent: 21/01/2019 | Accession No.: 56797 |
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To: [REDACTED]
Department of Conservation
Christchurch

Report Sent: 14/01/2019

Copy To: [REDACTED]

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Species: Cetacean | Breed: Hector's Dolphin | | |
| Age: Adult | Sex: Male | | |
| Owner: Department of Conservation | Type: Post Mortem | | |
| ID: H278 | Prev. Accn.: | | |
| Submitted: | At Risk: | Affected: | Dead: |

History

Three known bycaught dolphins were received chilled, via Air New Zealand cargo, on 21/11/18. All were packed in clear plastic bags inside foil-lined rigid cardboard containers.

Gross Findings

This male dolphin presented chilled, in good body condition and a fresh state of preservation. There were multiple linear to curved superficial lacerations on both sides of the body, many with fresh blood at the base. A 2mm wide strip of excised skin was sitting loose against the body. An irregular but encircling impression was present at the throat, and there was an approximately 1cm long fresh defect (gouge) to the left upper lip. Six closely spaced (4-5mm apart at the lip margin, increasing to 6-7mm apart at the distal ends) lacerations were present in a radiating pattern at the caudal aspect of the left jaw. No nicks or lacerations were present on leading edges of fins or flippers. There was no subcutaneous bruising.

The lungs were well inflated with no foam or fluid in the airways. There were scattered gritty 1mm diameter nodules (likely lungworm granulomas) throughout both lungs. The stomach contained 1.32 kg of partially digested (flesh recognisable) fish and hard parts.

Standard length = 1.220m

Weight = 39.8kg

Summed testicular mass (with epidid) = 901g

Diagnosis

Known bycatch

Comments

The post mortem findings in this animal (recently ingested fish in the stomach of an otherwise healthy dolphin in good body condition) are consistent with the history of bycatch.

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| Date: 14/01/2019 | Pathologists: [REDACTED] |
| Students: | |