

**Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences
Massey University**

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Pending
Date: 06/10/2015
Type: Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation	Lab. Case/Spec ID: 52593 Submitter's Ref: H257 Date Submitted: 04/10/2015 Date Received: 05/10/2015 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 7545/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
Animal ID: H257 Animal Name: W15-12Ch Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> Common Name: Hector's Dolphin Sex Class: Female Age Class: Adult Date Died:	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		.02 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Dorsal Blubber Depth		8 mm	06/10/2015	Adult
Eye to Blowhole Length		.145 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.04 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Girth at Anus		m	06/10/2015	Adult
Girth at Eye		538 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Girth at Flippers		780 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Girth at Navel		614 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Height of Dorsal Fin		.09 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Lateral Blubber Depth		6 mm	06/10/2015	Adult
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.227 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Length of Flipper		.21 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Length of Flukes		.13 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Snout to Anus Length		1.016 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.18 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.995 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.665 m	06/10/2015	Adult

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.37 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Total Length	1.445 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Ventral Blubber Depth	8 mm	06/10/2015	Adult
Width of Flipper	.08 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Width of Flukes	.388 m	06/10/2015	Adult
Weight	32 kg	06/10/2015	Adult

DIAGNOSIS

No obvious cause of death; possible kidney disease

COMMENTS

The changes in the kidney could have caused renal failure but there is no way to definitively diagnose this after death. The tissues were too autolysed to fully assess for toxoplasmosis but there were no lesions to suggest that this was the cause of death. This possibility could be further investigated using molecular assays and immunohistochemistry.

ANIMAL HISTORY

Found at Coopers Beach. Chilled and shipped to Massey via Hall's transport

GROSS PATHOLOGY

This adult female dolphin was in poor body condition, with marked atrophy of the epaxial muscles and a pronounced neck. There were a few scavenger marks around the anogenital orifice, and the skin of the left side was sloughing. There were three circular shallow ulcers around the throat, as well as two parallel full skin thickness healed lacerations. The teeth on the right maxilla and mandible were worn (upper moderate and lower marked). The blubber was partially liquefied. The mammary glands were small and did not contain milk.

All internal organs were moderately autolysed.

There was approximately 100ml of red fluid in the abdominal cavity. The left ovary had several scars while the right ovary was smooth. The uterine horns were mildly bilaterally enlarged with superficial linear striations (left horn 28mm diameter, right horn 24mm). The uterine mucosa was diffusely dark purple. The stomach contained remains of a fin fish.

HISTOPATHOLOGY

All tissues were moderately autolysed, which meant that full histological interpretation was not possible. There was moderate glomerular damage in the kidney (fibrosis and thickening of the glomerular basement membranes).