

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Pending  
**Date:** 11/03/2011  
**Type:** Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Fraser Maddigan Department of Conservation  Christchurch	Lab. Case/Spec ID:  Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: 10/03/2011 Date Received: 10/03/2011 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID:
Animal Details	Epidemiology
<b>Animal ID:</b> <b>Animal Name:</b> <b>Species:</b> <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> <b>Common Name:</b> Hector's Dolphin <b>Sex Class:</b> Female <b>Age Class:</b> Adult <b>Date Died:</b>	Number Dead: 1 Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1

**Growth and Development**

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.025 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Dorsal Blubber Depth		10 mm	11/03/2011	Adult
Eye to Blowhole Length		.145 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.35 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Girth at Anus		.68 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Girth at Eye		.57 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Girth at Flippers		.84 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Girth at Navel		.85 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Height of Dorsal Fin		.11 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Lateral Blubber Depth		8 mm	11/03/2011	Adult
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.225 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Length of Flipper		.21 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Length of Flukes		.115 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Snout to Anus Length		1.25 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.165 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.945 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.645 m	11/03/2011	Adult

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.34 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Total Length	1.415 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Ventral Blubber Depth	11 mm	11/03/2011	Adult
Width of Flipper	.09 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Width of Flukes	.405 m	11/03/2011	Adult
Weight	48 kg	11/03/2011	Adult

#### DIAGNOSIS

Open

#### COMMENTS

The appearance of the lungs suggests that this dolphin may have had toxoplasmosis, but histology is required to confirm this. There was no indication of death being due to bycatch.

#### ANIMAL HISTORY

Found floating in Governor's Bay by member of public.

#### GROSS PATHOLOGY

This adult female dolphin was in a good state of preservation, but in comparatively poor nutritional condition, with prominent spinous processes due to wasting of lumbar muscles. There were no external wounds or impression marks, and only minimal superficial skin sloughing. The teeth were extremely worn. The blubber layer was thin. The oral cavity contained a small amount of very fine grey silt, which also coated the mucosa of the oesophagus and the trachea, and was present within the stomach. The tracheal rings were very prominent and gritty to cut (probably an aging change, with calcium deposition in tracheal cartilage). No foam was evident in the trachea or lower airways. The lungs were hyperinflated, and had multiple 2-5mm haemorrhages over the pleural surface as well as throughout the parenchyma.

The stomach contained a moderate amount of fine grey mud, as described above, with a few small fish bones. The pancreas had several foci of haemorrhage. Intestinal lymphatics were moderately prominent. A spherical, 4cm diameter structure was present within the mesentery of the cranial abdominal cavity (probably a mesenteric lymph node). On cut surface this structure was pale, with several foci of haemorrhage.

The ovaries contained numerous follicles, with no obvious corpus luteum. There were linear striations over the uterine serosa (indicative of previous pregnancies). The mammary tissue was thin, and no milk was present.

Pathologist: