

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

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Pending
Date: 24/02/2012
Type: Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation Mahaanui	Lab. Case/Spec ID: 47189 Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: 22/02/2012 Date Received: 22/02/2012 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 6607/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
Animal ID: Animal Name: W12-03Ch Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> Common Name: Hector's Dolphin Sex Class: Unknown Age Class: Adult Date Died:	Number Dead: 2 Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1

DIAGNOSIS
Probable bycatch

COMMENTS
Based on the circumstances in which this dolphin was found (beachcast in a net along with another Hector's dolphin (see report XXX), the presence of skin marks consistent with net entanglement, and the good body condition of this animal, bycatch is the most likely cause of death.
Histopathological examination of tissues (muscle, skin/blubber, lung) is pending.
Based on total body length and length of the base of the dorsal fin, this dolphin was an adult. Gender could not be determined due to absence of reproductive organs.

ANIMAL HISTORY
Found on 22/2/2012. One of two individuals found in a net on Kairaki Beach, 1 km north of the Waimakariri River

GROSS PATHOLOGY
This dolphin was collected from Palmerston North airport on the evening of 22/2/2012 (arrived on flight XXX). The dolphin was packed, along with one other (see XXXX) in a grey plastic bin sealed with 3 blue MFish cable ties (numbers XXX, XXX, XXX). The bin was collected by the Massey University PM Technician and transported by car back to the necropsy facility at Massey University, where it was held in the necropsy chiller overnight. At 1pm on 23/2/2012 the box was removed from the chiller by the PM technician, and photographed by XXX (pathologist). The cable ties were cut and this body was removed. A second dolphin, wrapped in a net (photographed) was held in the box while a necropsy was conducted on XXXX. The necropsy was conducted by XXX assisted by the PM technician.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION
This dolphin was labelled with a waterproof card label, attached to the head by a blue plastic MFish cable tie (no. 30811). This label was left in situ throughout the necropsy.

There was patchy skin loss over approximately 30% of the body, particularly affecting the ventrum. There was extensive scavenging, with tissue loss including both eyes and surrounding soft tissues, the ventrum (skin, blubber, abdominal musculature and abdominal and thoracic organs) extending from the sternum to caudal to the ano-genital area. There were three deep linear lacerations at the margin of the right lower lip, and one on the right side of the leading edge of the tail fluke.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

No internal organs remained in the adominal cavity. The thorax contained the cranial 1/4 of the lungs; the caudal portions were missing. The trachea was present, and was partially detached from the larynx, with none of the surrounding soft tissue remaining. No bony fractures were detected. No haemorrhage was detected at tissue defect margins. The epaxial muscles were missing from the mid-thoracic region cranially. The remaining muscle was well developed, with no evidence of atrophy (ie good body condition). Sand was embedded in the remaining skin and blubber and around the ribs.

Pathologist:

Assistant(s):

Copy To: