

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Pending  
**Date:** 24/12/2012  
**Type:** Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation  Mahaanui	Lab. Case/Spec ID: <b>47190</b>  Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: 22/02/2012  Date Received: 22/02/2012 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 6608/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
<b>Animal ID:</b> <b>Animal Name:</b> W12-04Ch <b>Species:</b> <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> <b>Common Name:</b> Hector's Dolphin <b>Sex Class:</b> Unknown <b>Age Class:</b> Unknown <b>Date Died:</b>	Number Dead: 2 Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1

**DIAGNOSIS**

Probable bycatch

**COMMENTS**

The circumstances under which this dolphin was found, in combination with skin marks consistent with entanglement, good body /nutritional condition and an absence of evidence of another cause of death, makes bycatch the most likely cause of death.

Based on the length of the base of the dorsal fin and the total body length, this dolphin was either a subadult or an adult. Further classification of age and gender was not possible due to the absence of reproductive organs.

Histopathological examination of tissues is pending.

**ANIMAL HISTORY**

Found beachcast in net along with another Hector's dolphin (XXXX) at Kairaki Beach, 1km north of the Waimakariri River, on 22/2/2012.

**GROSS PATHOLOGY**

See XXX report for details of delivery and unpacking.

This dolphin was removed from a grey MFish bin (see details for XXXX) at 3.15 pm on 23.2.2012 following completion of a necropsy on XXX. The body had a waterproof card tag attached to the head with a blue plastic MFish cable tie (number XXX). This label was left in situ throughout the necropsy. The body was removed from a fishing net (green nylon with attached yellow rope, white nylon cord and patchy black-coated polystyrene floats).

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION**

This Hector's dolphin had extensive skin loss affecting 30-40% of the ventrum. There was moderate tissue loss (scavenging) involving all intermandibular soft tissue, the left caudolateral thorax and the ano-genital area. The dolphin was in good physical body condition, with good blubber depth and no atrophy of muscles.

There were two linear lacerations at the leading edge of the dorsal fin, as well as several linear impressions. A deep linear laceration was present over the beak, partially encircling the snout. At the dorsal midline this laceration was angled in to the blubber, producing a tissue flap defect. Two smaller linear lacerations were present on the left side of the snout, parallel and cranial to this deeper lesion. There was loss of tissues in the anogenital area, affecting the skin, blubber, muscle and underlying organs. A full thickness tissue defect was also present on the left flank (caudal thoracic region). There was no evidence of haemorrhage/bruising at any tissue defect margins.

#### INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Sand was present in the scavenged tissue margins and cavities. The following abdominal cavity organs were missing: caudal intestinal tract, bladder, reproductive tract, cranial half of both kidneys, both adrenals, majority of stomach (small part of squamous portion remained), half of the liver, spleen. The remaining liver was slightly pale and moderately friable (moderate autolysis) but easily identifiable and intact.

There was a small bolus of fish bones (vertebrae, ribs) within the distal oesophagus.

Within the thoracic cavity the lungs and heart remained, along with most of the diaphragm. The trachea was partially opened, and much of the soft tissue surrounding the trachea and larynx was missing. There were no abnormalities detected in the heart. The lungs were discoloured slightly greenish (decomposition). Fluid was expressed from airways upon pressure to the parenchyma.

Pathologist:

Assistant(s):

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