

School of Veterinary Science

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H298	Date Sent: 17/01/2022	Accession No.: 60319
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To: [REDACTED]
Mahaanui

Report Sent: 04/02/2022

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Email:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Neonate	Sex: Male		
Owner: Department of Conservation			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H298			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Found north of Waipara River.

Gross Findings

This dolphin was received chilled, on 17/1/22. The body was in a poor state of preservation. The skin was sloughing and extensively scavenged, body cavities were taught and distended with gas and the penis was protruding. The dorsal fin was folded. Blubber was not liquefied. Organs were distinct and identifiable, but friable and emphysematous.

The body condition was assessed as poor, with a pronounced neck and concave lumbar muscles. Blubber depth was thin (5mm dorsal; 5mm lateral; 6mm ventral). Standard length was 0.79m.

There was dark red fluid and discolouration of the intermandibular area and dorsal skull typical of decomposition. There were no underlying fractures. There were numerous maggots in the mouth and around the mandibles. The tongue was missing (presumed scavenged). There were no detectable external umbilical remnants.

The stomach contained scant bloody fluid (decomposition) and the intestinal lymphatics were not distended.

The lungs were hyperinflated, and on cut surface were mottled with alternating pale and dark red areas. Several gritty foci were present at the margins of some lobes.

Diagnosis

Possible maternal separation

Comments

It was not possible to make a definitive diagnosis of cause of death for this calf, due to the degree of decomposition of the body. Separation from the mother is considered as a potential cause of death for all young calves, but usually it isn't possible to confirm this, particularly when the state of preservation of the body means that other potential causes can't be adequately investigated.

Date: 19/01/2022	Pathologists: [REDACTED]
Students:	