

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Pending  
**Date:** 28/01/2009  
**Type:** Mortality

<p><b>Submitter</b></p> <p>Department of Conservation Private Bag 701 Sewell Street Hokitika</p>	<p><b>Submission Details</b></p> <p>Lab. Case/Spec ID: <b>42764</b></p> <p>Date Submitted: Date Received: 08/08/2008 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 4686/1</p>
<p><b>Animal Details</b></p> <p>Animal Name: <b>Species:</b> <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> <b>Common Name:</b> Hector's Dolphin <b>Sex Class:</b> <b>Age Class:</b> <b>Date Died:</b></p>	<p><b>Epidemiology</b></p> <p>Number Dead: 1 Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1</p>

**Growth and Development**

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.016 m	26/01/2009	
Dorsal Blubber Depth		10 mm	26/01/2009	
Eye to Blowhole Length		128 m	26/01/2009	
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		390 m	26/01/2009	
Girth at Anus		385 m	26/01/2009	
Girth at Eye		530 m	26/01/2009	
Girth at Flippers		745 m	26/01/2009	
Girth at Navel		820 m	26/01/2009	
Height of Dorsal Fin		100 m	26/01/2009	
Lateral Blubber Depth		11 mm	26/01/2009	
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		212 m	26/01/2009	
Length of Flipper		210 m	26/01/2009	
Length of Flukes		104 m	26/01/2009	
Snout to Anus Length		101 m	26/01/2009	
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		151 m	26/01/2009	
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		720 m	26/01/2009	
Snout to Origin of Flipper Length		290 m	26/01/2009	

Standard Length	136 m	26/01/2009
Ventral Blubber Depth	14 mm	26/01/2009
Width of Flipper	80 m	26/01/2009
Width of Flukes	422 m	26/01/2009
Weight	35 kg	26/01/2009

## DIAGNOSIS

1. Acute abdominal trauma with fatal haemorrhage from renal mass

## COMMENTS

This female dolphin died following trauma to the right side of the body which resulted in rupture of a kidney mass and fatal haemorrhage into the abdomen. It is impossible to say what the source of trauma was, but there is no convincing evidence of entanglement.

## ANIMAL HISTORY

Henk Steggs: The carcass had been dragged up from the intertidal zone to the driftwood line and recovered 6 hours later. No net marks nor signs of injury other than those attributable to gulls.

## GROSS PATHOLOGY

The body was in moderate post mortem condition, with extensive scavenging of both eyes and of tissue around orifices, appreciable skin slippage and liquefaction of some blubber. There was a circular skin impression in the umbilical area (possibly caused by material used to wrap or carry the body?). Three non-parallel lacerations were present on the dorsal midline of the back. There was extensive bruising of the right caudal abdominal wall, affecting blubber and muscle over an area of 300 x 140mm. There was also mild to moderate superficial bruising of the left thorax, extending to the ventral neck.

A focal accumulation of inspissated tan friable material was present under the blubber on the right flank, close to several serpiginous pale tan parasites.

The abdominal cavity contained approximately 100ml of unclotted blood and a large (approx. 100ml) blood clot. The right kidney was enlarged to two times normal size (190 x 130 x 90mm) and contained multiple 20-30mm cystic structures (likely dilated pelvices) filled with pale red serous fluid. The caudal half of the kidney was dark red and contained haemorrhagic fluid within thin-walled cysts. The stomach contained normal fluid and digested prey items, with no recently ingested prey evident. No mucosal ulcers were seen.

The lungs were well inflated, with no evidence of congestion or oedema, and no foam in the airways. A few pulmonary nematodes were present, but no palpable granulomas.

Pathologist: Wendi Roe

Assistant(s): Kelly Buckle

Copy To: Steve Smith