

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Pending  
**Date:** 08/12/2008  
**Type:** Mortality

<b>Submitter</b>	<b>Submission Details</b>
Department of Conservation	Lab. Case/Spec ID: <b>42649</b>  Date Submitted: Date Received: 16/10/2008 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 4660/1
<b>Animal Details</b>	<b>Epidemiology</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

DIAGNOSIS  
Open

COMMENTS

This adult female did not appear to have drowned, as she had well aerated lungs with no congestion or oedema. This makes entanglement in fishing gear an unlikely cause of death. Her stomach did not contain any freshly ingested material. No cause of death could be identified at post mortem, but tissues have been saved for further diagnostics as per usual.

ANIMAL HISTORY

"Reported to DoC 8am on Monday 6th October. Body was discovered on 3/10/08. Damage to eye occurred after carcass first sighted on Friday 3 October. Carcass brought to DoC Hokitika office on 6 Oct 2008 mid pm. Held overnight pending the arrangement of forwarding chilled to Massey, but then frozen on 7 Oct with arrangements to be picked up by Aratuna Freighters on afternoon of 8 October"

GROSS PATHOLOGY

EXTERNAL FINDINGS

The dolphin was in good body condition, and poor-moderate post mortem condition. The right eye was completely scavenged and the ramus of the mandible exposed through the eye socket. There was almost total skin slippage with cracking of the underlying tissue and liquefaction of blubber. There was moderate bruising between the mandibles.

INTERNAL FINDINGS

There was a narrow band of haemorrhage and oedema (bruising) along the dorsal margin of the left scapula. The stomach mucosa contained numerous encysted cestodes. (The stomach has been frozen pending analysis of contents.). The lungs were very well aerated and pale pink, and floated in formalin. There was no congestion, and only scant fluid in the terminal airways. The bladder was empty, and the uterus was mature with linear gooves along the length of the body and both horns. The left ovary had a corpus luteum and numerous corpora albicans (sexually mature female). There was no milk in the

mammary glands.