

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Final

**Date:**

**Type:** Mortality

<p><b>Submitter</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Department of Conservation</p>	<p><b>Submission Details</b></p> <p>Lab. Case/Spec ID: <b>42869</b></p> <p>Date Submitted:</p> <p>Date Received: 17/02/2009</p> <p>Previous Case ID:</p> <p>WMD Case/Spec ID: 4746/1</p>
<p><b>Animal Details</b></p> <p><b>Animal Name:</b> W09-04Ch</p> <p><b>Species:</b> <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i></p> <p><b>Common Name:</b> Hector's Dolphin</p> <p><b>Sex Class:</b> Male</p> <p><b>Age Class:</b> Neonate</p> <p><b>Date Died:</b></p>	<p><b>Epidemiology</b></p> <p>Number Dead:</p> <p>Number at Risk:</p> <p>Number Sick:</p> <p>Number Submitted: 1</p>

**Growth and Development**

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.015 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Dorsal Blubber Depth		12 mm	08/02/2009	Neonate
Eye to Blowhole Length		.95 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.038 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Girth at Anus		.289 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Girth at Eye		.345 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Girth at Flippers		.432 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Girth at Navel		.473 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Height of Dorsal Fin		.064 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Lateral Blubber Depth		13 mm	08/02/2009	Neonate
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.128 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Length of Flipper		.153 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Length of Flukes		.17 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Snout to Anus Length		.535 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.095 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.4 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Snout to Origin of Flipper Length		.194 m	08/02/2009	Neonate

Standard Length	.74 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Ventral Blubber Depth	12 mm	08/02/2009	Neonate
Width of Flipper	.056 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Width of Flukes	.222 m	08/02/2009	Neonate
Weight	7 kg	08/02/2009	Neonate

#### DIAGNOSIS

Congenital skull deformity (lower jaw)

#### COMMENTS

I would imagine, due to the extent of the deformity of the jaw in this neonate, that he would have found it difficult to suckle properly, so death may have been due to starvation.

#### ANIMAL HISTORY

Found on Punakaiki Beach.

#### GROSS PATHOLOGY

The body was severely autolysed, with extensive loss of skin and decomposition of internal organs. No teeth had erupted. There were several small areas of (minor) bruising to the blubber of the flanks on both sides. There was a marked deformity of the mandibles, with shortening of the left mandible and fusion of this side to the maxilla. This caused the right mandible to elongate and deviate to the left. The right eye socket was distorted and smaller than the left. No eye was present on this side at necropsy, but this may have been removed by scavengers.

The gastrointestinal tract contained meconium only.