

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

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Final

Date:

Type: Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation Mahaanui	Lab. Case/Spec ID: 45205 Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: Date Received: Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 5239/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
Animal Name: W09-08Ch Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> Common Name: Hector's Dolphin Sex Class: Male Age Class: Subadult Date Died:	Number Dead: 1 Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1

Growth and Development

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.03 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Dorsal Blubber Depth		8 mm	11/05/2010	Subadult
. Blubber depth unlikely to be accurate due to severe decomposition				
Eye to Blowhole Length		.12 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.04 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Girth at Anus		m	11/05/2010	Subadult
. Not measured due to advanced decomposition				
Girth at Eye		m	11/05/2010	Subadult
. Not measured due to advanced decomposition				
Girth at Flippers		m	11/05/2010	Subadult
. Not measured due to advanced decomposition				
Girth at Navel		m	11/05/2010	Subadult
. Not measured due to advanced decomposition				
Height of Dorsal Fin		.09 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Lateral Blubber Depth		.01 mm	11/05/2010	Subadult
. Blubber depth unlikely to be accurate due to severe decomposition				
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.185 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Length of Flipper		.2 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Length of Flukes		.12 m	11/05/2010	Subadult

Snout to Anus Length	.87 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length	.14 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Snout to Genital Slit Length	.84 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length	.57 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.33 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Total Length	1.22 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Ventral Blubber Depth	.01 mm	11/05/2010	Subadult
. Blubber depth unlikely to be accurate due to severe decomposition			
Width of Flipper	.07 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Width of Flukes	.365 m	11/05/2010	Subadult
Weight	17 kg	11/05/2010	Subadult

DIAGNOSIS

Cause of death unknown due to advanced state of decomposition

COMMENTS

The presence of sand in the body cavities may indicate that death occurred at sea and sand entered as the dolphin was washed to shore, however cause of death can not be determined.

ANIMAL HISTORY

Found dead on the beach 200m south of south Brighton Surf Club Rooms in Christchurch on 11/3/2009. Collected by DOC and sent to Massey, frozen.

GROSS PATHOLOGY

The carcass is severely decomposed. There are marks from pecking and scavenging over the body. The area between the head and dorsal fin is sunken, this may be from poor body condition or decomposition. The epidermis is sloughed off and there are full thickness skin deficits with bone exposure in several areas. There is evidence of scavenging over the anus and genital slit with partial externalization of the internal organs and penis. The body cavities are filled with sand and organs not identifiable.

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Carcass autolysed for histology

PARASITOLOGY

None submitted

BACTERIOLOGY

None submitted