

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

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Final
Date: 18/12/2008
Type: Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation Christchurch	Lab. Case/Spec ID: 42682 Date Submitted: Date Received: 12/12/2008 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 4661/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
. Animal Name: W08-27Ch Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> Common Name: Hector's Dolphin Sex Class: Female Age Class: Neonate Date Died:	Number Dead: Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1

Growth and Development

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.024 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Dorsal Blubber Depth		15 mm	13/12/2008	Neonate
Eye to Blowhole Length		.09 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.025 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Girth at Anus		.275 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Girth at Eye		.375 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Girth at Flippers		.472 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Girth at Navel		.495 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Height of Dorsal Fin		.065 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Lateral Blubber Depth		12 mm	13/12/2008	Neonate
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.125 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Length of Flipper		.14 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Length of Flukes		.09 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Length of Longest Baleen Plate		m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Length of Snout		m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Projection of Mandible		m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Anus Length		.525 m	13/12/2008	Neonate

Snout to Blowhole Length	m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length	.109 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Ear Length	m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Eye Length	m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Genital Slit Length	.495 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length	.365 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.195 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Tip of Dorsal Fin Length	m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Total Length	.75 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Ventral Blubber Depth	14 mm	13/12/2008	Neonate
Width of Flipper	.067 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Width of Flukes	.25 m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Width of Longest Baleen Plate	m	13/12/2008	Neonate
Weight	8.4 kg	13/12/2008	Neonate

DIAGNOSIS

Probable maternal separation

COMMENTS

This baby had breathed well after birth, but there was no evidence that it had suckled. This makes it likely that the calf was separated from its mother soon after birth. There was no indication of any disease process.

ANIMAL HISTORY

Found on Sumner beach. Moved onto rocks by caller, who then went home and contacted DoC.

GROSS PATHOLOGY

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body had been chilled (not frozen) prior to transport.

The dolphin was in good body condition, and moderate post mortem condition. There was multifocal under-running and loss of full thickness skin around the eyes, flippers and anogenital area. There were foetal folds present on both sides of the body, but no foetal whiskers. There were no erupted teeth.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

There was bruising around the blubber and muscle of the intermandibular area and throat, and bruising of muscle over the back of the skull.

Approximately 1 litre of red/brown, turbid, watery fluid was present in the abdominal cavity. All internal organs were moderately autolysed. The stomach was empty and the mucosa sloughing. There was abundant meconium in the large intestine and around the anus. The thymus appeared bruised.

The lungs were well aerated.