

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

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Final

Date:

Type: Mortality

<p>Submitter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Department of Conservation</p>	<p>Submission Details</p> <p>Lab. Case/Spec ID: 42627</p> <p>Date Submitted:</p> <p>Date Received: 01/12/2008</p> <p>Previous Case ID:</p> <p>WMD Case/Spec ID: 4654/1</p>
<p>Animal Details</p> <p>Animal Name: W08-24Ch</p> <p>Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i></p> <p>Common Name: Hector's Dolphin</p> <p>Sex Class: Male</p> <p>Age Class: Neonate</p> <p>Date Died:</p>	<p>Epidemiology</p> <p>Number Dead: 1</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	03/12/2008	Neonate
Dorsal Blubber Depth		mm	03/12/2008	Neonate
Eye to Blowhole Length		m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.03 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Girth at Anus		m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Girth at Eye		m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Girth at Flippers		m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Girth at Navel		m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Height of Dorsal Fin		.05 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Lateral Blubber Depth		mm	03/12/2008	Neonate
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.115 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Length of Flipper		.12 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Length of Flukes		.14 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Anus Length		.472 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.082 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.41 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.315 m	03/12/2008	Neonate

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.17 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Total Length	66 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Ventral Blubber Depth	mm	03/12/2008	Neonate
Width of Flipper	.058 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Width of Flukes	.16 m	03/12/2008	Neonate
Weight	kg	03/12/2008	Neonate

DIAGNOSIS

Perinatal death

COMMENTS

The degree of decomposition of this calf makes it impossible to determine whether or not it was born alive. The lungs partly floated in water, but this could be due to the presence of decomposition gases in the tissue rather than an indication of breathing attempts. It certainly had not survived long enough to have suckled, as the stomach was empty. The calf may have been separated from its mother quickly after birth, for example in a storm, or it may have been stillborn. Unfortunately all tissues were too autolysed to allow any further analysis.

ANIMAL HISTORY

Found by Jo Stafford while walking on beach, at high tide mark. Maggots indicated that it had been there for some time, and it was decomposing. Dolphin was newborn, umbilical cord still attached. Suspected to have died at birth? No net marks or obvious cause of death.

GROSS PATHOLOGY

The calf was very autolysed, with extensive sloughing of the skin and liquefaction of the blubber. Muscles were emphysematous (gas produced during decomposition) and internal organs indistinguishable. The umbilicus was attached, and a portion of small intestine protruded through the scavenged umbilical area. The stomach contained mucus only, The lungs partially floated when placed in water.