

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Pending

**Date:**

**Type:** Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation  Mahaanui	Lab. Case/Spec ID: <b>43346</b>  Date Submitted:  Date Received: 24/03/2009 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 4838/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
. <b>Animal Name:</b> W09-09Ch <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

**Growth and Development**

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.02 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Dorsal Blubber Depth		mm	18/06/2009	Adult
Eye to Blowhole Length		.13 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.035 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Girth at Anus		m	18/06/2009	Adult
Girth at Eye		m	18/06/2009	Adult
Girth at Flippers		m	18/06/2009	Adult
Girth at Navel		m	18/06/2009	Adult
Height of Dorsal Fin		.09 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Lateral Blubber Depth		mm	18/06/2009	Adult
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.205 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Length of Flipper		.089 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Length of Flukes		.12 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Snout to Anus Length		m	18/06/2009	Adult
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.177 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Snout to Genital Slit Length		m	18/06/2009	Adult

Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length	.7 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.31 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Standard Length	1.47 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Ventral Blubber Depth	mm	18/06/2009	Adult
Width of Flipper	.089 m	18/06/2009	Adult
Width of Flukes	m	18/06/2009	Adult
Weight	36 kg	18/06/2009	Adult

#### DIAGNOSIS

Emaciation/ chronic illness

#### COMMENTS

The state of decay of this body make it difficult to determine the cause of death, but there is no evidence of entanglement, and no signs of human interaction. The body was in poor nutritional condition, and there are some indications of lung and possibly genital tract disease.

#### ANIMAL HISTORY

Found by member of public while walking dogs on beach. Found 80m south of Ashworths Beach vehicle entrance.

#### GROSS PATHOLOGY

The body is in a poor state of preservation, with a large proportion of the skin having sloughed off, and the blubber liquefied. There is extensive scavenging of the ventrum, with removal of most of the flesh from the anogenital area and abdominal wall and loss of a substantial part of the internal organs. The edges of the wounds are scalloped (likely shark bites) and there is no evidence of haemorrhage into the wound edges or the underlying muscle (inflicted after death). The eyes and a large proportion of the soft tissue of the jaws and shoulder has also been scavenged. The body condition is poor, with marked wasting of the epaxial and hypaxial muscles along the back causing prominence of the lateral spinous process and an obvious neck. All body cavities are impacted with sand. There is no bruising of any soft tissues.

The stomach has been partially scavenged, and there are no identifiable contents remaining. The lungs are collapsed, with no foam, oedema or congestion. Multiple small firm nodules can be palpated, varying in size from 10 - 200 mm diameter. On cut section these nodules are similar in colour to surrounding lung, and are poorly demarcated.

There is yellow mucus in the cervix and terminal part of the uterine body. The uterine horns and ovaries are missing. The local lymph nodes are prominent and appear gelatinous on cross section.

The brain was not examined due to the state of decomposition of the carcass.