Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences
Massey University

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Final
Date:
Type: Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation Otago	Lab. Case/Spec ID: **49091** Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: Date Received: 19/12/2012 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 6706/1

Animal Details		Epidemiology	
Animal ID:			
Animal Name:	W12-19Ch	Number Dead:	
Species:	*Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori*	Number at Risk:	
Common Name:	Hector's Dolphin	Number Sick:	
Sex Class:	Female	Number Submitted:	1
Age Class:			
Date Died:			

Growth and Development

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.022 m	20/12/2012	
Dorsal Blubber Depth		18 mm	20/12/2012	
Eye to Blowhole Length		m	20/12/2012	
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		m	20/12/2012	
Girth at Anus		.432 m	20/12/2012	
Girth at Eye		.42 m	20/12/2012	
Girth at Flippers		.565 m	20/12/2012	
Girth at Navel		m	20/12/2012	
Height of Dorsal Fin		.07 m	20/12/2012	
Lateral Blubber Depth		17 mm	20/12/2012	
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.136 m	20/12/2012	
Length of Flipper		.16 m	20/12/2012	
Length of Flukes		.08 m	20/12/2012	
Snout to Anus Length		.585 m	20/12/2012	
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.125 m	20/12/2012	
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.55 m	20/12/2012	
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.388 m	20/12/2012	

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.198 m	20/12/2012
Total Length	.83 m	20/12/2012
Ventral Blubber Depth	16 mm	20/12/2012
Width of Flipper	.06 m	20/12/2012
Width of Flukes	.26 m	20/12/2012
Weight	10.4 kg	20/12/2012

DIAGNOSIS
Maternal separation

COMMENTS
This calf may have been several weeks old, based on the body weight and standard length. There was no evidence of direct human interaction or other forms of trauma, and no evidence of systemic infectious disease. The small circular structure seen in the section of eye will be examined further in order to rule out toxoplasmosis in this case, although there is no accompanying inflammation, which suggests that the structure is more likely to be a degenerating nerve cell.

GROSS PATHOLOGY
This carcass was moderately decomposed, with skin cracking and sloughing along with scavenging of the anogenital area, right eye, both periorbital areas and the caudal abdominal organs. There were faint fetal folds and no fetal whiskers. The dorsal fin was folded (likely due to autolysis). No teeth had erupted. There was no bruising of the subcutaneous tissues. The internal organs were better preserved than expected from the outward appearance of the calf. The stomach was empty, and the presence of meconium could not be assessed due to scavenging of the intestines. The lungs were well inflated, with no foam or fluid present within the airways. No gross abnormalities were evident in the remaining abdominal organs or in the thoracic organs.

HISTOPATHOLOGY
Histology summary:
Lungs: the interstitium appears hypercellular, particularly around bronchioles. Occasional squames are present in alveoli. There are moderate numbers of intra-alveolar macrophages.
Eye: no obvious inflammation is present. A single round structure representing either a degenerating neuronal cell body or possibly a toxoplasma tissue cyst is present in the region of the retinal granular cell layer.

Pathologist:
Assistant(s):