

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

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Final
Date: 02/11/2009
Type: Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Robin Smith Department of Conservation	Lab. Case/Spec ID: 44214 Submitter's Ref: H188 Date Submitted: 30/11/2009 Date Received: 02/11/2009 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 4942/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
Animal ID: H188 Animal Name: W09-15Ch Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> Common Name: Hector's Dolphin Sex Class: Female Age Class: Adult 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		.019 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Dorsal Blubber Depth		17 mm	02/11/2009	Adult
Eye to Blowhole Length		.13 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.04 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Girth at Anus		.485 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Girth at Eye		.595 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Girth at Flippers		.73 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Girth at Navel		.83 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Height of Dorsal Fin		.098 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Lateral Blubber Depth		16 mm	02/11/2009	Adult
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.225 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Length of Flipper		.098 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Length of Flukes		.041 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Snout to Anus Length		.115 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.17 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.105 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.7 m	02/11/2009	Adult

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.4 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Total Length	1.52 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Ventral Blubber Depth	15 mm	02/11/2009	Adult
Width of Flipper	.09 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Width of Flukes	.41 m	02/11/2009	Adult
Weight	43.5 kg	02/11/2009	Adult

DIAGNOSIS

Probable septicaemia

COMMENTS

The lesions in the kidney and liver, and the fluid in the abdominal cavity are consistent with infection within the blood stream and multiple organs. This can be caused by bacteria, or, more rarely, by fungi. Further tests are underway to identify the causal organism.

ANIMAL HISTORY

Discovered by fishermen at Rakaia huts on 30/10/09 about 8.45 am. Recovered by DoC staff and flown to Massey. Very high seas days before finding. Third dolphin recovered from this similar location in a period of a few weeks.

GROSS PATHOLOGY

The carcass was fresh, with only limited skin slippage (<2% body surface). There were no net marks evident, and few rake marks. On the left tip of the tail fluke there was a semi-circular laceration affecting both upper and lower surfaces of the fluke. The body condition was poor, with an obvious 'neck' and very prominent spinous processes. There was mild scavenging around the genital slit. No milk was evident in the mammary tissue. The left upper and lower teeth were markedly worn, while the right teeth were not. Within the abdominal cavity there were several hundred millilitres of turbid pinkish brown fluid. The liver had numerous small (1-2mm diameter) pale foci scattered throughout the parenchyma. The kidneys were pale and mottled on cut surface. The stomach was empty. The uterus had linear striations consistent with a previous pregnancy.

The lungs were slightly oedematous, as seen by a minimal amount of clear fluid in the lower airways. No froth was present. There were large numbers of lungworm in many smaller airways, and numerous 2 - 12 mm diameter pale round lesions were present throughout all lung fields. Many of these were gritty (calcified).

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Pending

BACTERIOLOGY

Pending

Pathologist:

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