Hector's and Māui necropsy update

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Necropsy cases 2020 - 2022

Based on date body was found

Why so many lately?

- 13 for necropsy Oct 2021 to Sept 2022
- 10 so far in 2022

NORMAL VARIATION?

Note that
- 15 in 2018
- 17 in 2012

so this is not without precedent

FINDING MORE?

Increased messaging around reporting beachcast dolphins?

MORE ARE DYING?

Infectious disease outbreak?

MORE AROUND?

Change in distribution/ habitat use or increased numbers of dolphins?

What can we investigate using necropsy cases?

INDIVIDUAL CAUSE OF DEATH

Plus look for common themes

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Testing for known pathogens + archiving tissues for future testing

UNDERLYING CONDITIONS

Particularly factors that could increase likelihood of death

Cause of death

2021 – 2022

(H291 – H305)

- MATERNAL SEPARATION = 6
- SHARK PREDATION = 1
- SHARK PREDATION/SCAV. = 1
- DISEASE = 3
- DISEASE/POSS. BYCATCH = 1
- OPEN = 2
- PENDING = 2

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Disease?

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Common themes?

Key questions:

Is there an emerging infectious disease outbreak?
Is there something predisposing dolphins to disease (e.g. immunosuppression)?

Morbillivirus

11 tested so far – all negative

Brucella

1 with lesions consistent with brucellosis - tested negative

Toxoplasma

No fatal cases
2/12 latent cases

Toxoplasma projects

WATERFOWL

Fish and Game

DOC

CAT PREY

Landcare Research

Massey University

KĀKAHI

MBIE Smart Idea

Massey

NIWA

WRC

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research

NIWA Taihoro Nukurangi

Waikato Regional Council Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa University of New Zealand

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Hīkina Whakatutuki

Questions?