

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Final  
**Date:** 14/02/2017  
**Type:** Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation  Christchurch	Lab. Case/Spec ID: <b>54222</b>  Submitter's Ref: H262 Date Submitted: 10/02/2017 Date Received: 10/02/2017 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 7558/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
<b>Animal ID:</b> H262 <b>Animal Name:</b> W17-03Ch <b>Species:</b> <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> <b>Common Name:</b> Hector's Dolphin <b>Sex Class:</b> Male <b>Age Class:</b> Juvenile <b>Date Died:</b>	Number Dead: 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	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Dorsal Blubber Depth		14 mm	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Eye to Blowhole Length		.105 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.025 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Girth at Anus		.27 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Girth at Eye		.41 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Girth at Flippers		.49 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Girth at Navel		.498 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Height of Dorsal Fin		.07 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Lateral Blubber Depth		15 mm	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.14 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Length of Flipper		.135 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Length of Flukes		.085 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Snout to Anus Length		.535 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.115 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.475 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.35 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.2 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Total Length	.766 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Ventral Blubber Depth	15 mm	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Width of Flipper	.055 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Width of Flukes	.265 m	11/02/2017	Juvenile
Weight	8.6 kg	11/02/2017	Juvenile

#### DIAGNOSIS

1. Death likely due to maternal separation
2. Pneumonia/Fetal respiratory distress

#### COMMENTS

This calf was quite young, and had some indications of decreased food intake (a slightly concave neck and shrunken lumbar muscles). Histology showed evidence of pneumonia/fetal respiratory distress, which may have weakened the calf and therefore contributed to his death. This is a non-specific finding, and can sometimes be associated with disease but often no cause is able to be found. As part of our ongoing research projects we will run further tests on tissues from this dolphin and will send an updated report if anything significant is found.

#### ANIMAL HISTORY

Found on upper part of Taylor's Mistake beach in calm weather

#### GROSS PATHOLOGY

This male dolphin calf was in moderate body condition and a good state of preservation. There were numerous healed wounds over the body, along with several sets of rake marks. There was a slight concavity of the neck. The teeth were not erupted, there were no fetal folds or whiskers, and the tongue had prominent lateral papillae. There was liquid, bright green fecal material oozing from the anal slit. No subcutaneous bruising or net marks were evident. The lumbar muscles were mildly atrophied. The lungs were well aerated with moderate congestion and a small amount of fluid in the smaller airways. No granulomas or lungworm were seen. The squamous stomach compartment contained a single 7mm diameter partial thickness ulcer with a raised rim. No ingesta was present in the stomach, and only scant contents further along the tract. In the distal small intestine and throughout the large intestine this content was watery and almost fluorescent green.