

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Final  
**Date:** 21/10/2016  
**Type:** Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation	Lab. Case/Spec ID: <b>53951</b>  Submitter's Ref: H258 Date Submitted: 17/10/2016 Date Received: 20/10/2016 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 7555/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
Animal ID: H258 Animal Name: W16-07Ph Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> Common Name: Hector's Dolphin Sex Class: Female Age Class: Neonate Date Died:	Number Dead: Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1

**DIAGNOSIS**

Infectious disease - meningitis, ocular inflammation and pneumonia

**COMMENTS**

This dolphin was very young, but had evidently lived long enough to pass meconium. The absence of milk clot in the stomach means she had not fed in the hours immediately before death, and her body condition suggests that she may have been separated from her mother for some time longer than that. Histological examination will help to determine whether there is any underlying disease process.

**ADDENDUM - HISTOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION**

This calf had significant histological lesions in the lung, eye and brain. These changes can be seen in a number of infectious diseases, including brucellosis and toxoplasmosis. We will run some molecular tests for these agents and send an updated report once these have been done. Please note that these are not routine diagnostic tests and may take some time to complete.

**ANIMAL HISTORY**

Found dead on Southside Beach, Hokitika, by a member of the public.

**GROSS PATHOLOGY**

This neonatal calf is in thin body condition, with a pronounced concavity at the neck and atrophy of the lumbar muscles. The left eye has been removed (scavenged), and there are superficial partial thickness indentations (savenger damage and/or substrate (eg gravel) damage to skin) along the right side. No fetal whiskers were present, but much of the snouth tissue has been abraded. Small (up to 2mm) fly larve are present around the right eye and snouth. Prominent fetal folds are present, and the teeth are not erupted. There are no skin wounds or bruising that would suggest human interaction.

All internal organs are moderately autolysed but intact and recognisable. The lungs are well inflated. There are occasional 1-2mm diameter pale foci on the pleural surface. No fluid or foam is present within the airways.

The stomach is completely empty. The large intestine contains soft brownish green faecal material (normal

digesta) with no evidence of meconium.

#### HISTOPATHOLOGY

Histology summary:

Lungs - moderate interstitial pneumonia and squame aspiration

Brain - moderate to marked non-suppurative meningitis

Eye - mild non-suppurative choroiditis

Pathologist:

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