

# Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H281	Date Sent: 10/01/2019	Accession No.: 56843
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To: [REDACTED]  
Department of Conservation  
Geraldine

Report Sent: 01/02/2019

Copy To: [REDACTED]

Email:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Neonate	Sex: Female		
Owner:			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H281			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

## History

Found at Rangitata river mouth on 24/12/18. Held frozen. Shipped to Massey 8/1/19; received 15/1/19.

## Gross Findings

This calf arrived frozen and was thawed in water for 24 hours prior to necropsy. The calf was in good post mortem condition and moderate body condition. There were no fetal whiskers and the dorsal fin was straight. There were fetal folds present, and prominent lateral papillae on the tongue. No teeth were erupted. There were two irregular, lacerations on the right of the dorsal fin, measuring 8 and 10mm and surrounded by an 8mm oval zone of pallor. There was no haemorrhage associated with these lesions, and no bruising of underlying blubber or muscle. Similar lesions were present just behind the blowhole; none were associated with haemorrhage or bruising. There were no rake marks, and no skin lesions consistent with entanglement.

The peritoneal aspect of the umbilicus was surrounded by a rim of dark red/blue haemorrhage, and the urachus was patent. The lungs were mottled dark red but were well aerated. There was a small amount of fluid within smaller airways (freeze-thaw artefact) but no foam. The stomach contained a small amount of sand and tiny pebbles/grit. The duodenal ampulla and proximal small intestine contained pink-tinged creamy fluid (milk), and the mesenteric lymphatics contained scant threads of white fluid (recent feeding). The large intestines contained watery yellow/brown faeces.

Standard length: 855mm

Weight: 13.6kg

## Histopathology

Interpretation hindered by freeze-thaw artefact but no evidence of inflammation in eyes or brain. Skin wounds are not recent (no haemorrhage present; evidence of healing)

## Diagnosis

Open; possible maternal separation

## Comments

Unfortunately the freezing process has caused tissue damage that can obscure subtle histological changes, so it isn't possible to make a definitive diagnosis for this calf. The microscopic findings are consistent with this being a recently born animal, and there are no gross or histological changes that suggest recent blunt trauma, or that support blunt trauma as a cause of death. There are some changes in the lung that fit with respiratory disease, but freeze artefact causes very similar changes so it isn't possible to determine the significance of these.

Date: 18/01/2019	Pathologists: [REDACTED]
Students:	