

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

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Pending

Date:

Type: Mortality

| Submitter | Submission Details |
|--|---|
| Garry Hickman Department of Conservation Hamilton | Lab. Case/Spec ID: 45670 Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: 21/11/2010 Date Received: 22/11/2010 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 6132/1 |
| Animal Details | Epidemiology |
| Animal ID: Animal Name: W10-07Chh Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori maui</i> Common Name: Maui's Dolphin Sex Class: Male Age Class: Subadult Date Died: | 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 | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Dorsal Blubber Depth | | 20 mm | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Eye to Blowhole Length | | .13 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Eye to Corner of Mouth Length | | .04 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Girth at Anus | | m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Girth at Eye | | .595 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Girth at Flippers | | .835 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Girth at Navel | | .835 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Height of Dorsal Fin | | .205 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Lateral Blubber Depth | | 18 mm | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Length of Base of Dorsal Fin | | .095 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Length of Flipper | | .08 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Length of Flukes | | .385 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Snout to Anus Length | | .89 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Snout to Corner of Mouth Length | | .155 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Snout to Genital Slit Length | | .795 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length | | .585 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |

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|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|----------|
| Snout to Origin of Flipper Length | .275 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Total Length | 1.25 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Ventral Blubber Depth | 18 mm | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Width of Flipper | .195 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Width of Flukes | .385 m | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |
| Weight | 27 kg | 22/11/2010 | Subadult |

DIAGNOSIS

Open pending further tests

COMMENTS

There was no obvious cause of death on gross examination of this young male dolphin. There were no signs consistent with death due to accidental net capture were present (eg there were no indications of drowning, no net marks, and the stomach was empty). The bruising present on the throat, neck and flanks was not sufficient to have explained the death, and could have occurred any time in the previous few days.

ANIMAL HISTORY

Found floating at sea off Raglan.

GROSS PATHOLOGY

The body was mildly/moderately autolysed, with full-thickness sloughing of 20-30% of skin, and marked gaseous distension of the tongue, skeletal musculature and abdominal cavities. Body condition was difficult to assess due to gaseous distension of muscle. No net impressions or lacerations were present (aside from two sections of skin removed for DNA analysis on recovery of the body; left side, slightly forward of dorsal fin). Several superficial rake marks were present around the head and flanks. The eyes were intact, and the penis prolapsed, with no scavenging.

Removal of blubber showed bruising of the intermandibular blubber, extending to involve the ventral muscles of the tongue and mucosa of the floor of the oral cavity. Several other small (approx 7 x 5 cm or less) areas of blubber and superficial muscle bruising were present on the right side of the neck and left side of the thorax.

There was a small amount of dark red fluid in the abdominal and thoracic cavities, and about 30ml of similar fluid in the pericardial sac. The lungs were hyperinflated (at least partially due to post mortem gas production). There was no fluid or froth within the airways.

The stomach was empty of ingesta but contained two nematodes. A single, 15mm diameter circular area of black, crumbly mucosa (ulcer) was present in the glandular compartment. The liver was extremely autolysed, and the testes were small, with a smooth surface.

Pathologist:

Assistant(s):