# Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences Massey University

## **PATHOLOGY REPORT**

Status: Pending

Date:

Type: Mortality

Submitter

Department of Conservation

Otago

**Submission Details** 

Lab. Case/Spec ID: 47323

Submitter's Ref: H218
Date Submitted: 28/03/2012
Date Received: 30/03/2012

Previous Case ID:

WMD Case/Spec ID: 6691/1

**Animal Details** 

Animal ID: H218 Animal Name: W12-08Ch

**Species:** Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori

Common Name: Hector's Dolphin

Sex Class: Female Age Class: Neonate

Date Died:

**Epidemiology** 

Number Dead: Number at Risk: Number Sick:

Number Submitted:

## **Growth and Development**

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.016 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Dorsal Blubber Depth		17 mm	30/03/2012	Neonate
Eye to Blowhole Length		.092 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.028 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Girth at Anus		.42 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Girth at Eye		.412 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Girth at Flippers		.558 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Girth at Navel		.575 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Height of Dorsal Fin		.075 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Lateral Blubber Depth		18 mm	30/03/2012	Neonate
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.142 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Length of Flipper		.148 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Length of Flukes		.082 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Snout to Anus Length		.56 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.12 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.52 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.39 m	30/03/2012	Neonate

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.19 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Total Length	.8 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Ventral Blubber Depth	14 mm	30/03/2012	Neonate
Width of Flipper	.06 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Width of Flukes	.2 m	30/03/2012	Neonate
Weight	10.7 kg	30/03/2012	Neonate

#### DIAGNOSIS

Probable maternal separation

#### COMMENTS

Based on the well-aerated lungs, the absence of fetal whiskers and the absence of meconium in the intestinal tract, this neonate was at least a few days old. As there was no milk in her stomach, and no evidence of infectious disease or trauma, maternal separation with consequent hypoglycaemia/hypothermia is the most likely cause of death.

#### ANIMAL HISTORY

Found at Matau Branch, Clutha River mouth

### **GROSS PATHOLOGY**

This young calf was in an advanced stage of decomposition, and all internal organs were extremely friable. There were faint fetal folds present, but the dorsal fin was not folded and there were no fetal whiskers. No teeth were erupted. The lateral papillae of the tongue were present and pronounced. There were superficial scavenging marks along the left side. There was dark red/black discoloration of the intermandibular soft tissues (probably due to autolysis). The stomach was empty, with only a thin layer of turbid cream/pink fluid covering the mucosa. There was no meconium in the intestine. The lungs were well aerated (including some post-mortem gas due to decomposition), with no foam or froth in the airways.