Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences Massey University

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Pending

Date:

Type: Mortality

Submitter **Submission Details** Lab. Case/Spec ID: 47317 Department of Conservation Submitter's Ref: H219 Date Submitted: Mahaanui 28/03/2012 Date Received: 28/03/2012 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 6692/1 **Animal Details** Epidemiology Animal ID: H219 Number Dead: Animal Name: W12-07Ch Species: Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori Number at Risk: Number Sick: Common Name: Hector's Dolphin

Number Submitted:

1

Sex Class: Female

Age Class: Subadult

Date Died:

Growth and Development

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.026 m		
Dorsal Blubber Depth		18 mm		
Eye to Blowhole Length		.128 m		
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.036 m		
Girth at Anus		.658 m		
Girth at Eye		.56 m		
Girth at Flippers		.82 m		
Girth at Navel		.86 m		
Height of Dorsal Fin		.1 m		
Lateral Blubber Depth		15 mm		
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.215 m		
Length of Flipper		.195 m		
Length of Flukes		.11 m		
Snout to Anus Length		.895 m		
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.172 m		
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.865 m		

Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length	.605 m
Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.305 m
Total Length	1.275 m
Ventral Blubber Depth	15 mm
Width of Flipper	.09 m
Width of Flukes	.415 m
Weight	37.5 kg

DIAGNOSIS Open

COMMENTS

There was no indication of entanglement as a cause of death in this dolphin, or convincing evidence of any other form of human interaction. Histological examination of the lungs showed large numbers of lesions that were most likely to have been due to parasitism, but this was not severe enough to have caused the death of the animal.

ANIMAL HISTORY

Found floating at sea, about 1km south of Spencer Park. Saved overnight packed in ice then sent to Massey.

GROSS PATHOLOGY

This subadult female dolphin was in fresh post mortem condition, and good body condition. There were several parallel skin thickness (approximately 3mm deep_ lacerations on the left side of the tail stock. No net marks were evident. There were pox-like lesions on the rostrum and melon.

There was no bruising of any subcutaneous tissues. One 40mm diameter area over the left caudal mandible had multiple petechial haemorrhages in the superficial blubber.

The stomach contained turbid tan fluid and fish veterbrae with a small amount of adherent soft sissue, along with low numbers of large nematodes. The distal intestine contained sandy/muddy material.

There were gritty 1-2 mm diameter foci scattered throughout the lungs. A very small amount of froth was present in the terminal airways. The superficial lymphatics were prominent, and the thoracic duct was distended.

The uterus was small and the ovaries inactive.