

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H332	Date Sent: 01/03/2024	Accession No.: 63130
----------------------	-----------------------	----------------------

To: [REDACTED]
Department of Conservation
Geraldine

Report Sent: 06/03/2024
Copy To:

Email:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Adult	Sex: Male		
Owner:			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H332			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Caught by trawler. Picked up from wharf by DOC, chilled and transported to Palmerston North by AirNZ.

Gross Findings

This dolphin presented in a good state of post mortem preservation (code 2). Body condition was assessed as moderate/good, with a flat neck profile and rounded lumbar muscles. Blubber depths were 15mm dorsal, 18mm lateral and 15mm ventral.

The dolphin was 1.190m long, and weighed 29.5kg.

There were several old (healed) nicks on the dorsal fin and flukes. Recent lacerations were present on both sides of the body, comprised of straight to broadly curved lacerations, often in parallel sets or pairs. Occasional lacerations had a wavy profile. Parallel lacerations varied from 3mm to 17mm apart. There was a very faint linear impression on the left mandible, curving around under the throat, and several encircling lacerations over the top of the snout. A strip of maxillary teeth were missing from the middle of the arcade on both jaws.

Both lungs were collapsed and dark red, apart from a small portion of the right cranial lungfield which was pink and moderately aerated. Rib impressions were present on both sides. There was no foam or fluid present in airways, and no ingesta was present in airways or in the oesophagus or pharynx.

The intestinal lacteals did not contain grossly obvious chyle. The glandular stomach compartment contained scant muddy material, and the squamous compartment contained a low number of ascarid nematodes along with muddy material admixed with sections of small fish vertebrae. There were no bubbles present in the peri-renal tissue or renal subcapsular space. The bladder was partially full, with normal coloured urine.

Diagnosis

Known bycatch

Comments

This dolphin was an apparently healthy animal with external injuries that are consistent with capture in a trawl fishery. The findings in the internal organs were less 'typical' of bycatch, in that the lungs were collapsed and there was no obvious evidence of recent feeding. These findings help characterise the full spectrum of lesions, or lack of, in bycaught Hector's dolphins, and as such are invaluable in improving our ability to diagnose this cause of death.

A full set of representative tissues will be processed for histological evaluation, and an addendum report will be sent if there are any findings that impact this diagnosis.

Date: 06/03/2024	Pathologists: [REDACTED]
Students:	