

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

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Pending

Date:

Type: Mortality

<p>Submitter</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Otago</p>	<p>Submission Details</p> <p>Lab. Case/Spec ID: 49102</p> <p>Submitter's Ref:</p> <p>Date Submitted:</p> <p>Date Received: 21/12/2012</p> <p>Previous Case ID:</p> <p>WMD Case/Spec ID: 6708/1</p>
<p>Animal Details</p> <p>Animal ID:</p> <p>Animal Name: W12-21Ch</p> <p>Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i></p> <p>Common Name: Hector's Dolphin</p> <p>Sex Class: Female</p> <p>Age Class: Adult</p> <p>Date Died:</p>	<p>Epidemiology</p> <p>Number Dead:</p> <p>Number at Risk:</p> <p>Number Sick:</p> <p>Number Submitted: 1</p>

DIAGNOSIS
Open

COMMENTS

There is no obvious cause of death in this animal. Accidental capture in a fishing net cannot be excluded, but neither are there any convincing signs of this. There are no histological lesions to suggest that this dolphin had toxoplasmosis. The appearance of the uterus and mammary gland indicate that this female probably had a calf.

GROSS PATHOLOGY

This female dolphin is in a moderate state of post mortem preservation, with advanced skin sloughing and scavenging around the ano-genital slit. Skin loss is full thickness in some places. The body condition is good, with a concave dorsal neck profile. The teeth are slightly worn. There are numerous partial thickness skin 'cracks' and lacerations as well as many skin impressions. It is not possible to determine whether these are from the packaging or were caused before death. There is apparent bruising around the blowhole, but the sinuses and airways are clear.

The stomach is empty, and there are low numbers of small chronic ulcers in the oesophagus and mucosal portion of the stomach. There are no nematodes. There is no pulmonary fluid or foam. The left uterine horn is larger than the right; both are enlarged with linear folds (evidence of a previous or recent pregnancy). The left ovary has a corpus luteum and numerous follicles; the right is inactive.

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Histology summary:

All tissues showed marked autolysis, with colonies of proliferating post mortem bacterial invaders.

Sarcocysts (incidental findings) are present in the diaphragm, tongue and pectoral muscle.

The mammary gland is active.

There is no obvious pulmonary oedema.

No other significant findings.

Pathologist: