

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

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Preliminary

Date:

Type: Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Mike Morrissey Department of Conservation Kaikoura	Lab. Case/Spec ID: Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: 18/08/2010 Date Received: 18/08/2010 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID:
Animal Details	Epidemiology
Animal ID: Animal Name: Species: <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> Common Name: Hector's Dolphin Sex Class: Male Age Class: Juvenile Date Died:	Number Dead: 1 Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1

Growth and Development

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		16 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Dorsal Blubber Depth		6 mm	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Eye to Blowhole Length		114 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		20 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Girth at Anus		338 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Girth at Eye		465 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Girth at Flippers		602 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Girth at Navel		610 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Height of Dorsal Fin		60 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Lateral Blubber Depth		7 mm	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		174 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Length of Flipper		197 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Length of Flukes		115 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Snout to Anus Length		810 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		156 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Snout to Genital Slit Length		678 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		566 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	308 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Total Length	1155 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Ventral Blubber Depth	11 mm	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Width of Flipper	69 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Width of Flukes	256 m	18/08/2010	Juvenile
Weight	18.6 kg	18/08/2010	Juvenile

DIAGNOSIS

1. Starvation/Mild Trauma

COMMENTS

This dolphin was in poor body condition, but we do not have an obvious cause for the emaciation; there were no obvious signs of a chronic disease process that would explain the poor body condition on gross post-mortem.

There is possible trauma to the right side of the lower jaw, but this would not have killed the animal. Combined with the observation that stones and pebbles were found in the mouth and stomach, could indicate the animal was washed ashore while still alive, but probably in a severely weakened state.

ANIMAL HISTORY

Beach cast, had been dead 2-3 days. Long Pea Shingle Beach. Hectors known to be in there area. Found by a person riding a 4x4 bike. Been very rough sea conditions for last week with bid breaking surf. Collected by DOC Kaikora on 16/8/2010 and sent chilled to Massey, arrived 18/8/2010.

GROSS PATHOLOGY

The body is in a state of moderate to severe decomposition; there is sluffing of the skin around the eyes and head and leading edge of flippers. The left eye is missing.

The dolphin is in poor body condition with a thin blubber layer and moderately decreased expaxial muscle mass.

There is a 8x5cm area of the muscles around the ventral ramus of the right mandible (masseter and digastricus muscles) which are reddened and macerated. There is a corresponding area of overlying subcutaneous tissue which is similarly reddened and gelatinous. The overlying skin is normal. Several large copepods (up to 20mm in length) are present in macerated muscle and oral cavity.

Numerous small stones and pebbles are present in the oral cavity and stomach, which is otherwise empty (weighed 0.49kg full and 0.48 kg empty). The small and large intestine contain a moderate amount of brown, turbid, semi-viscous fluid. The rectum contains no faeces.

The lungs appeared normal grossly; large airways are free of fluid and no lungworm are seen.

Right teste: weight = 7g, without epididymis = 3g and measured 44x12mm. Left teste weight = 7g, without epydidymis = 2g and measured 47x10mm.

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Pending

PARASITOLOGY

None submitted

BACTERIOLOGY

None submitted

VIROLOGY

None submitted

Pathologist:

Assistant(s):