

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H309	Date Sent: 22/11/2022	Accession No.: 61469
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To: [REDACTED]
Department of Conservation
Christchurch

Report Sent: 05/12/2022
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Email:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Adult	Sex: Female		
Owner: Department of Conservation			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H309			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted: 2	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Returned by trawl fishing vessel

Gross Findings

This adult female dolphin presented chilled. The body was in a fresh state of post mortem preservation (code 2), with minimal skin slippage. Body condition was good, with a rounded neck profile and convex hypaxial muscles. Standard length = 1.485

Weight = 60kg

Blubber: dorsal = 14mm; lateral = 12mm; ventral = 13mm.

The skin was covered in many bleeding (recently inflicted) long, linear to slightly curved excoriations 1-2mm deep, mostly oriented along the body, with a few oriented at an angle or transversely. Multiple shorter parallel excoriations 3-4 mm apart were also present (rake marks); most of these were also recent. The blubber and musculature at the mandibular symphysis (tip of the lower jaw) was bruised. There was a fresh laceration at the trailing edge of the left side of the fluke and a recent abrasion on the underside of the left pectoral flipper. A focally extensive area of blubber and muscle haemorrhage was present on the left dorsolateral neck/shoulder region, with a 6cm fish spine (?) penetrating through the blubber and embedded in the underlying soft tissue. The oropharynx contained prey hard parts, and the stomach contained 1.170kg of partially digested prey.

The lungs were mottled red/pink, with a moderate amount of fluid in the airways but no froth. There were no bullae at the lung margins or elsewhere.

The mammary gland was prominent and oozed milk on incision. The uterus had linear striations (evidence of a previous pregnancy). One ovary was smooth and the other had numerous follicles/corpora.

Histopathology

Histology is pending; an addendum report will be sent out if anything significant is found.

Diagnosis

Known bycatch

Comments

This adult female dolphin was producing milk, indicating that she was actively feeding a calf when she died. The changes that were found at gross post mortem (recently digested prey in the stomach of an otherwise healthy animal) are consistent with death due to accidental capture.

Date: 05/12/2022	Pathologists: [REDACTED]
Students:	