

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H331	Date Sent: 23/02/2024	Accession No.: 63087
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To: [REDACTED]
Department of Conservation
Chrsitchurch

Report Sent: 26/02/2024
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Email:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Juvenile	Sex: Female		
Owner:			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H331			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Found in trawl net along with H330 (lactating adult female).

Gross Findings

This young female calf was airfreighted to Palmerston North and presented chilled. The body was in a good state of post mortem preservation (code 2) and excellent body condition, with blubber depths of 20mm dorsally, 15mm laterally and 15mm ventrally. Standard length was 845mm and the body weighed 12.9kg.

There were multiple shallow (into skin but not blubber) lacerations over both sides of the body and on the head. There were no fetal folds or fetal whiskers, and the dorsal fin was not folded.

On flensing there were no subcutaneous bruises.

The lungs were pale pink and well inflated, with rib impressions over both lobes. Occasional lungworm granulomas were present in the lung parenchyma. The airways did not contain any foam, and only scant fluid was present.

The oropharynx, oesophagus and squamous compartment of the stomach contained numerous soft, friable irregularly ovoid clumps of fluorescent green material, measuring around 2mm x 12-15mm. The glandular compartment contained watery, tan to creamy fluid (milk). The intestinal lymphatics contained chyle. There were clusters of small bubbles under the renal capsule. The uterus was immature and the ovaries smooth and inactive.

Diagnosis

Known bycatch.

Comments

This was a young healthy female calf that was still suckling from its mother. The marks on the skin are consistent with capture in a trawl net, and there was no indication of any illness or other potential cause of death. A full set of tissues will be processed for histology, and a further report will be sent if there are any relevant findings that impact this diagnosis.

Date: 26/02/2024	Pathologists:
Students:	