

Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Submitter's Ref.:	Date Sent: 14/03/2017	Accession No.: 54381
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TO:

Department of Conservation- Wairarapa

Species: Cetacean (1)	Sex: Male	Age: Adult	Breed: Sperm Whale
ID: None	At Risk:	Affected: 1	Dead: 1
Owner:	Prev. Accn.:	Type: Post Mortem	

HISTORY

Adult male sperm whale found washed ashore 13/03/2017.

GROSS FINDINGS

This was an adult male sperm whale lying in right lateral recumbency near the high tide mark; his longitudinal axis was lying parallel to the shoreline.

There was significant post mortem decomposition, with extensive epidermal sloughing, haemoglobin imbibition and a degree of abdominal bloating. The penis had prolapsed and was emphysematous while the tongue had already swollen and burst.

Due to the degree of decomposition no internal examination was undertaken and no samples were collected.

DIAGNOSIS

Unknown cause of death

COMMENTS

This was an adult male sperm whale but unfortunately due to decomposition a cause of death could not be established. Although body condition was difficult to assess due to abdominal bloating he did not appear to be emaciated. Any bruising or blunt force trauma was difficult to discern, again due to the decomposition but there was no evidence of any lacerations or sharp-force injuries.

File Nos.:

Students:

Date:

Pathologist:

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