

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H269	Date Sent: 08/03/2018	Accession No.: 55594
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To: Department of Conservation
Tasman District

Report
Sent: Copy
To:

Email:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Adult	Sex: Male		
Owner:			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H269			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Dolphin found at Rabbit Island. Recovered on 4/3/18 and held at Motueka DOC yard wrapped in a tarpaulin, on ice. It was delivered to Motueka coolstore on 5/3/18, and chilled down to 0-1C to be transported to Massey.

Gross Findings

This dolphin arrived chilled, and was in good body condition with adequate blubber and muscle development. There were only mild degenerative changes including superficial skin sloughing. Numerous nicks and lacerations were present on the leading edges of the dorsal fin, pectoral flippers and tail flukes. There were 3 encircling impressions over the snout, and an irregular encircling deep indent around the throat. There were also several impressions over the body that appeared to be marks from the packaging of the body.

There was approximately 100-200ml of red watery fluid in the abdominal cavity. The intestinal lymphatics were prominent. The stomach contained undigested fish flesh, along with bones and multiple parasites. A dark red soft pedunculated nodule projected from the cecal lymph node. Multiple 1-2mm pale flecks were scattered over the surface of the liver, but did not appear to extend into the parenchyma. The lungs were mottled red/white, with a few lungworms present in small airways. No froth or fluid was present.

Histopathology

Histology summary: all tissues are moderately autolysed. Parasite granulomas are present in lungs and lymph nodes, there are numerous protozoan cysts (likely sarcocysts) in skeletal muscle fibres, and the nodule present on the cecal lymph node contains large numbers of parasite ova.

Diagnosis

1. Probable bycatch
2. Chronic moderate parasitism

Comments

The most likely cause of death in this dolphin is bycatch, based on the skin markings, full stomach and absence of other significant/severe conditions or diseases.

Date: 09/03/2018	Pathologists:
Students:	