

# School of Veterinary Science

## Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H275	Date Sent:	Accession No.: 56637
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To: [REDACTED]  
Greymouth

Report Sent: 06/11/2018

Copy To:

Email:

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

### History

Found dead. Frozen and transported to Massey for necropsy

### Gross Findings

This dolphin presented in a moderate state of preservation and a moderate body condition. There was extensive scavenging, with removal of both eyes, soft tissue at the caudal margin of the right mandible and tissue around the anogenital orifice, and widespread curved or straight full thickness scavenger (likely birds) erosions. The skin was mostly sloughed over the face, tail and fins, with slippage of skin over the rest of the body. No lacerations or indentations suggestive of fishing gear entanglement were discernible.

Gelatinous red discolouration (freeze artefact) was present in the blubber between the mandibles. A moderate amount of red watery fluid was present in both the thoracic and abdominal cavities. The lungs were mostly well aerated with no froth in the airways. Multifocally there were firm areas of dark pink/red lung parenchyma and occasional nodules throughout the lung fields. Moderate numbers of lungworm were present. The stomach was empty other than a small amount of red-tinged mucus. The ovaries were smooth and inactive.

Weight: 26.2kg

Length: 114mm

Snout to anus length: 820mm

Snout to genital slit: 775mm

Snout to origin of dorsal fin length: 560mm

Snout to origin of flipper: 275mm

Snout to corner mouth: 150mm

Corner mouth to eye: 40mm

Dorsal fin height: 74mm

Dorsal fin interior base: 185mm

Fluke width: 315mm

Fluke length: 105mm

Fluke notch: 20mm

Girth at eye: 490mm

Girth at flippers: 730mm

Girth at navel: 770mm

Girth at anus: 450mm

Flipper width: 75mm

Flipper length: 165mm

Eye to blowhole length: 120mm

Dorsal blubber depth: 12mm

Lateral blubber depth: 14mm

Ventral blubber depth: 15mm

### Histopathology

Histo summary:

- moderate freeze artefact prevents interpretation of subtle lesions
- lung: severe granulomatous pneumonia with intralesional lungworm; bronchointerstitial pneumonia

## Diagnosis

1. Pneumonia, predominantly lungworm
2. Open cause of death

## Comments

The lung lesions in this dolphin could be associated solely with the lungworm burden although there are areas where the histological changes aren't typical of lungworm. It is unlikely that the lung disease was the direct cause of death however, and there are no other changes that give any clues as to the cause of death.

Date: 21/12/2018	Pathologists: 
Students:	