Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences
Massey University

PATHOLOGY REPORT

Status: Final
Date:
Type: Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Department of Conservation	Lab. Case/Spec ID: **51635** Submitter's Ref: H253 Date Submitted: 14/01/2015 Date Received: 20/01/2015 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 7476/1

Animal Details		Epidemiology	
Animal ID:	H253	Number Dead:	
Animal Name:	W15-01Ch	Number at Risk:	
Species:	*Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori*	Number Sick:	
Common Name:	Hector's Dolphin	Number Submitted:	1
Sex Class:	Male		
Age Class:	Juvenile		
Date Died:			

Growth and Development

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.018 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Dorsal Blubber Depth		16 mm	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Eye to Blowhole Length		.105 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.025 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Girth at Anus		.34 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Girth at Eye		342 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Girth at Flippers		.505 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Girth at Navel		.528 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Height of Dorsal Fin		.065 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Lateral Blubber Depth		15 mm	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.14 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Length of Flipper		.125 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Length of Flukes		.078 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Snout to Anus Length		.6 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.122 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.53 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.405 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.215 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Total Length	.835 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Ventral Blubber Depth	15 mm	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Width of Flipper	.055 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Width of Flukes	.24 m	22/01/2015	Juvenile
Weight	10.3 kg	22/01/2015	Juvenile

DIAGNOSIS
Known bycatch

COMMENTS
Unfortunately this dolphin was frozen during transport, and the thawing process results in loss of much post mortem information, including sloughing of the skin and therefore destruction of skin lesions that may have been visible when the dolphin was fresh. The reported history of capture in a fishing net enables a diagnosis of "known bycatch" to be made, but this diagnosis would have been difficult to impossible to make without that information.

ANIMAL HISTORY
The following history was relayed over the phone. This dolphin was reported to DOC by a member of the media, who had been contacted by a fisherman. Apparently the fisherman had hauled the dolphin up dead in his set net on a Friday. The media contacted DOC on the Monday morning, and the body was recovered. The net was a nylon recreational net, with a knot-to-knot distance of 150mm when stretched.

GROSS PATHOLOGY
This dolphin was received frozen and was thawed for two days prior to necropsy. The calf was in moderate body condition, with slight concavity of the dorsal neck. Post mortem condition was moderate. There was extensive skin sloughing, and the the remaining skin was easily detached. There were no lacerations to the fins or flukes. There was a shallow indentation with a band of skin blanching encircling the throat and extending a small distance over the snout. There were no fetal whiskers or fetal folds and the dorsal fin was straight. All teeth were erupted, with the mandibular teeth only just above the gumline. The left eye aperture was smaller than the right (10 mm from medial to lateral canthus on the left and 17mm on the right). The globes themselves were equal in size.
The stomach was empty except for scant tan mucoid material covering the mucosa.
The lungs were aerated, with a few scattered calcified granulomas (lungworm). The airways did not contain foam, and a moderate amount of bloody fluid was present (due to freezing and thawing).
No other gross abnormalities were evident.

HISTOPATHOLOGY
Tissues were collected but will not be processed due to artefact created by freeze-thaw and decomposition.