

**Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences  
Massey University**

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Pending

**Date:**

**Type:** Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Don Neale Department of Conservation  Hokitika	Lab. Case/Spec ID: <b>45596</b>  Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: 28/10/2010 Date Received: Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID: 6179/1
Animal Details	Epidemiology
<b>Animal ID:</b> <b>Animal Name:</b> <b>Species:</b> <i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> <b>Common Name:</b> Hector's Dolphin <b>Sex Class:</b> Female <b>Age Class:</b> Juvenile <b>Date Died:</b>	Number Dead: Number at Risk: Number Sick: Number Submitted: 1

**Growth and Development**

Parameter	Result Description	Value	Date Measured	Age Group
Depth of Tail Notch		.015 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Dorsal Blubber Depth		16 mm	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Eye to Blowhole Length		.055 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.025 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Girth at Anus	NA	m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Girth at Eye	NA	m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Girth at Flippers	NA	m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Girth at Navel	NA	m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Height of Dorsal Fin		.06 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Lateral Blubber Depth		14 mm	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.115 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Length of Flipper		.13 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Length of Flukes		.08 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Snout to Anus Length		.53 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.1 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.47 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length		.36 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile

Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.2 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Total Length	.69 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Ventral Blubber Depth	18 mm	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Width of Flipper	.05 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Width of Flukes	.21 m	28/10/2010	Juvenile
Weight	5.2 kg	28/10/2010	Juvenile

## DIAGNOSIS

### 1. Unknown Cause of Death

## COMMENTS

There were no obvious signs of trauma and the animal appear in relatively good body condition. Unfortunately due to extensive scavenging and advanced decomposition of the internal organs, and cause of death could not be established.

## ANIMAL HISTORY

Call received 13.10.10 from [NAME REMOVED] (Serpentine, SH6) about a small dead beachcast cetacean. Dolphin was collected from her place, and details of location found were noted. The dolphin had been found by her the previous day (12/10) and placed further up on the beach. She then brought the dolphin home on the morning of 13.10, from where it was picked up. Semi-freshly dead Hector's dolphin calf. Dolphin was measured & recorded etc, frozen and a skin sample taken. Numerous scavenging marks on the dolphin, but no signs of human interaction.

## GROSS PATHOLOGY

The animal weighed 5.2kg and was in a moderate to advanced state of decomposition. There were extensive signs of scavenging; both eyes were absent and there were bilateral defects (~6-9cm in diameter) through the body wall, just caudal to the flippers. As a result, the thoracic organs and liver were absent. The animal appeared to have decent blubber levels but a slightly reduced muscle mass. No teeth had erupted, and the umbilical arteries and urachus were still visible (although in the process of retracting). The stomach and intestines were in an advanced state of autolysis (as were all the abdominal organs) but appeared empty.

Pathologist: