

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

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

**Status:** Pending  
**Date:** 19/04/2011  
**Type:** Mortality

Submitter	Submission Details
Frazer Maddigan Department of Conservation  Mahaanui	Lab. Case/Spec ID:  Submitter's Ref: Date Submitted: 18/04/2011  Date Received: 18/04/2011 Previous Case ID: WMD Case/Spec ID:
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> Male <b>Age Class:</b> Neonate <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		.01 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Dorsal Blubber Depth		8 mm	19/04/2011	Neonate
Eye to Blowhole Length		.105 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Eye to Corner of Mouth Length		.025 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Girth at Anus		.385 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Girth at Eye		.425 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Girth at Flippers		.51 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Girth at Navel		.51 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Height of Dorsal Fin		.08 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Lateral Blubber Depth		6 mm	19/04/2011	Neonate
Length of Base of Dorsal Fin		.15 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Length of Flipper		.16 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Length of Flukes		m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Snout to Anus Length		.7 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Snout to Corner of Mouth Length		.115 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Snout to Genital Slit Length		.59 m	19/04/2011	Neonate

Snout to Origin of Dorsal Fin Length	.46 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Snout to Origin of Flipper Length	.24 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Total Length	.94 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Ventral Blubber Depth	6 mm	19/04/2011	Neonate
Width of Flipper	.055 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Width of Flukes	.24 m	19/04/2011	Neonate
Weight	kg	19/04/2011	Neonate

#### DIAGNOSIS

Probable starvation due to maternal separation

#### COMMENTS

Tissue samples have been collected to evaluate for the presence of underlying disease, and to more accurately determine whether the lacerations on the flanks were caused before or after death. Even if these wounds were inflicted before death, however, they were mild and would not have been sufficient to cause death. The very poor body condition and lack of ingesta and intestinal contents suggest that this young calf has not been fed for at least several days.

#### ANIMAL HISTORY

Found beachcast on Sandy Beach, Governors Bay

#### GROSS PATHOLOGY

This neonatal male calf was in good post mortem condition, with minimal skin sloughing but moderate scavenging of skin around the eyes and some tissue loss around the lower jaws. Maxillary and mandibular teeth were erupted, there were no foetal folds and no foetal whiskers.

The calf was in poor body condition, with a prominent 'neck', easily palpable spinous processes, a low blubber depth and very poor muscle condition. There were multiple deep rake marks on both sides, as well as two lacerations, one on each flank. These lacerations affected the full thickness of skin, and surrounding skin was under-run. There was no evidence of bruising of either blubber or muscle, suggesting that this damage occurred after death.

There were multiple 2-4mm diameter ulcers within the oesophageal mucosa and squamous portion of the stomach. The stomach contained only a scant amount of cloudy pink/cream fluid, and the intestines were empty. The lungs were well inflated, with a very small amount of foam adherent to the tracheal mucosa.

Pathologist:

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