

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H284	Date Sent:	Accession No.: 58327
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To: Geraldine

Report Sent: 06/03/2020

Copy To:

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Subadult	Sex: Male		
Owner: Department of Conservation			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H284			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Beachcast at high tide mark

Gross Findings

This dolphin was presented frozen and was thawed for necropsy. The body is in a good state of post mortem preservation. The body condition is moderate to poor, with prominent lateral vertebral processes, a moderately pronounced neck and a flattened hypaxial muscle profile. Blubber depth (lateral) is 7mm. There are multiple skin lacerations and wounds, both recent and old: rake marks on the left side and left chin; a healed oval craterous lesion on the left tail dorsal to the anal slit; a short recent laceration over the left mandible; a 35mm healed laceration on the left neck dorsal to the lateral processes; a 20mm healed laceration caudal to the neck lesion; an 18mm fresh laceration to the skin at the tip of the mandible, with two intersecting perpendicular shallower lacerations at the caudal aspect; a healed laceration cranial to the insertion of the right pectoral flipper; a very large fresh resected area of right tail fluke (assumed site of tissue collection by DOC). Images of lesions are on file. The stomach is empty save for watery tan fluid in the ampulla. No ascarids or ulcers are present, and only a few cestodes. There is moderate ulceration of the distal oesophagus, with linear ulcers 1-3cm long. There is a single, pale yellowish poorly demarcated lesion approximately 5mm in diameter on the cut surface of one mesenteric lymph node. The gastric and peri-aortic lymph nodes are slightly enlarged. The lungs contain multifocal to coalescing pale yellow dry lesions affecting approximately 1/3 of the left lobe. There is minimal fluid in the airways, and no lungworms are evident grossly

Microbiology

Fungal culture negative after 2 days. Waiting for 2 week results.

After 2 weeks of culture: mixed fungal growth

Diagnosis

Fungal pneumonia

Comments

This dolphin had a fungal pneumonia which was severe enough to have caused the poor body condition and death. There were also numerous wounds over the body, many of which were old and well healed. The origin of the fresh lacerations on the lip is not known and while it is not possible to definitively rule out a human origin, the marks were not typical of net impressions.

Date: 06/03/2020	Pathologists:
Students:	