

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H339	Date Sent: 20/11/2024	Accession No.: 64189
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To: [Redacted]
Kaikoura

Report Sent: 17/12/2024

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Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Subadult	Sex: Female		
Owner:			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H339			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Known bycatch. Frozen before shipping to Massey.

Gross Findings

This dolphin was in good body condition and a good state of post mortem preservation (code 2). She measured 1.285m in standard length and weighed 34.8kg. There were multiple encircling parallel linear impressions and lacerations over the snout and leading edges of the tail fluke as well as a short nick and parallel impression on the dorsal-most aspect of the dorsal fin, and a short nick in the leading edge of the right pectoral fin. There was a tear in the left axilla. There was a band of scavenging around the genital slit consisting of arcs of short, closely-spaced gouges (fish teeth?).

The oesophagus contained grey fish flesh and bones along with an almost intact fish. The stomach contained a large amount of partially digested fish. The uterine horns were small with no stretch marks and the ovaries were smooth.

The lungs were well inflated, with a "tiger-stripe" pattern of dark red rib impressions, especially caudally. The airways did not contain foam or fluid, and there were no bubbles in or around the kidneys. The intestinal lymphatics were distended by chyle.

Diagnosis

Known bycatch

Comments

This dolphin was caught by a fishing vessel, and has changes typical of set net capture: encircling linear impressions, nicks and lacerations, particularly on the snout and leading edges of fins/flippers; a full stomach containing recently ingested prey; good body condition; and chyle in the intestinal lymphatics.

Date: 17/12/2024	Pathologists: [Redacted]
Students:	