

Pathology Report

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| Submitter Ref.: H333 | Date Sent: 09/04/2024 | Accession No.: 63273 |
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To: Geraldine Office
Canterbury

Report Sent: 15/04/2024

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|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Species: Cetacean | Breed: Hector's Dolphin | | |
| Age: Subadult | Sex: Male | | |
| Owner: | | | Type: Post Mortem |
| ID: H333 | | | Prev. Accn.: |
| Submitted: | At Risk: | Affected: | Dead: |

History

Known bycatch. Chilled and air freighted to Palmerston North for necropsy.

Gross Findings

The dolphin was received chilled, and was in a good state of post mortem preservation (code 2) and good body condition, with a rounded dorsal lumbar profile and a flat neck profile. The teeth were in good condition with minimal wear. The dolphin weighed 30.2kg and was 1160mm long. The blubber depths were: 1mm dorsal; 11mm lateral; 12mm ventral. The summed testicular mass (with epididymis) was 17g.

There were encircling impressions on the tail stock and fluke. On the left leading edge of the tail fluke there were 4 of these impressions, each of which formed a laceration at the fluke edge. Two were present at the base of the tail stock. Two similar lacerations were present on the dorsal fin, one at the leading edge and one in line with this, forming a laceration and tear at the caudal junction of the fin and the body. The left pectoral fin had multiple intersecting linear impressions on the dorsal surface, along with a tear to the trailing edge of the fin and a full thickness irregular area of skin loss near to the body insertion. Several linear lacerations were present on the left flank. There was also a short laceration on the chin and an abrasion on the tip of the snout.

Upon flensing there was an extensive bruise to the dorsum of the skull.

The lungs were pink and well aerated, with rib impressions on both sides. The airways contained a moderate amount of turbid tan fluid, with flecks of mucoid material. Similar fluid was present in the oesophagus.

The stomach contained recently ingested fish with very minimal digestion. There were rare small (1-2mm) gas bubbles beneath the renal capsule. The intestinal lacteals were not distended by chyle.

Diagnosis

Known bycatch

Comments

This dolphin had both encircling linear impressions and flank lacerations, which are consistent with net entanglement. He had also very recently ingested several fish; the lack of chyle (lymph fluid) in the intestinal lacteal vessels reflects the recency of this feeding, in that digestion and absorption of fats from the food into the lymphatics had not progressed to the point where this was visible.

Tissues will be processed for histological examination, and an addendum report will be sent if there are any findings of significance to the diagnosis.

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| Date: 15/04/2024 | Pathologists: [REDACTED] |
| Students: | |