

GROSS NECROPSY REPORT

SPECIES Tursiops truncatus **FIELD NUMBER** 02IMMS010411 **DATE** 01/06/2011

LOCATION Close to Little Bend (West side of N. Peninsula) on Cat Island, MS
LAT 30.23726/**LONG** 89.07304

GENDER Male **TL** 203 cm **COND** 3 **WEIGHT** 210 estimated

HISTORY: Found dead on the West side of N. Peninsula of Cat Island, MS

NECROPSY

EXTERNAL EXAM: Body had multiple fresh, healing and healed conspecific rake marks on rostrum, flippers and fluke. Teeth present- Right upper-25, Right lower-23, Left upper- 25, left lower 23. All teeth sharp, pointy. Multiple teeth on upper bilateral arcade had brownish discoloration similar to what is seen with children who have taken tetracycline. Tongue had lateral papillae. Right side of head had a dark purplish-grey discoloration approximately 13 cm wide with 3 circular areas of whitish discoloration. The subcutaneous tissue felt indented on that side. Oblong 5.3 cm x 2.4 cm area with loss of epithelium leaving the white dermis on the right lateral dorsal side. The ventral aspect of the dolphin had the superficial, irregular coalescing areas where the epidermis was missing. Healed conspecific rake marks on left shoulder. Multiple fresh conspecific rake marks on front flippers. Scavenger marks on left fluke, ventral abdomen and right side. Dorsal fin- epithelium missing leaving velvety feeling (spongy) dermis. Right fluke- loss of superficial epithelium leaving velvety feeling (spongy) dermis. Blowhole- dry, pale inside. Left peduncle- fresh, conspecific rake marks.

INTERNAL EXAM: There were no lesions found ventral to purplish-grey discoloration. All organs in thoracic and abdominal cavity were darker red than normal. There was some dark red fluid in the abdominal cavity.

BLUBBER: No parasites found.

MUSCULOSKELETON

Axial Muscle: Bruising/hemorrhaging on the ventral chin. 3 cm circular area of bruising seen in the muscle on the left side of the back of the skull.

Axial Skeleton: Left shoulder joint normal.

Ribs & Sternum: No fractures seen.

CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

Heart: Filled with gelatinous partially thawed blood. Pericardial sac had dark red bloody fluid. Valves were normal.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Trachea: Hemorrhaging mucosa approximately 2 mm thick along entire trachea and proximal bronchi.

Lungs: Red with dark red (maroon) mottled discoloration on surface and throughout lung. Right lung had a few parasites- long, linear, slender. Lungs were firm. No nodules were palpated.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Esophagus: No food in esophagus. No ulcers.

Fore Stomach: One small partially digested eel. Few otoliths and fish eyes. No ulcers found.

Main Stomach: Multiple circular cystic parasites, Braunina sp.

Pyloric Stomach: Few cystic parasites.

Intestine: No parasites found. Distal colon feces was orange.

Describe food-stuffs found in GI Tract: One small partially digested eel, reddish fluid.

Describe parasites found in GI Tract: 6 mm circular light tan cystic. Approximately 10-15 cysts.

Liver: Dark red. Firm. No parasites or abscesses found.

Pancreas: Light pink, firm.

URINARY SYSTEM

Kidneys: Dark red. No stones found. Left kidney had bruising/hemorrhaging in the caudal pole.

Adrenals: Dark red.

Urinary Bladder: Small amount of red tinged fluid present. No stones found.

ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS

Thymus: Not present.

Thyroid: Not evaluated.

Pituitary: Not evaluated.

Spleen: Serosa had multiple ecchymotic black spots. Parenchyma was dark red.

Lymph Nodes: Dark red.

REPRODUCTIVE TRACT: Left lateral tip of penis had a irregular oblong lesion.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Brain: Left back of skull had a quarter size area of hemorrhaging, bruising. Skull was not fractured. Cerebrum was red.

Spinal Cord: No abnormality found.

HEAD

SENSORY ORGANS

Eyes: Loss of epithileum around eyes.

CONCLUSIONS: Signs of trauma present, appear mostly from conspecifics. Body condition was 4/5 but stomach was empty. Some bruising/hemorrhage on chin and back of skull. All internal organs appeared more red than normal. The tracheal mucosa was hemorrhagic.

CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION: Undetermined.

This report was generated by: Dr. Connie Chevis

PHOTOS/VIDEO: Yes/No

ASSOCIATED DATA SHEETS: Level A Data Form, Delphinid Specimen record