

GROSS NECROPSY REPORT

SPECIES *Tursiops truncatus* **FIELD NUMBER** 04IMMS011611 **DATE** 1/14/2011

LOCATION South Side of West Point Island, AI **LAT**30.232553/**LONG** -88.282042

GENDER Male_ **TL** 94.4 cm **COND** 3 **WEIGHT** 11.5 kgs/25# Estimated

HISTORY: Found dead.

NECROPSY

EXTERNAL EXAM: Skin missing from back of the jaw to behind shoulders. 8 cm x 3.5 cm hole on right side of neck. Scavenger damage suspected. No teeth present, teeth bud present. Vibrissae present. Lateral/marginal papillae present on tongue. Sand in mouth. 2 cm piece of umbilical cord attached to umbilicus. Penis extruded. Flukes and dorsal fin folded, fetal folds present. Superficial skin loss ventral to right flipper. 8 cm X 8 cm hole and 3.5 cm x 3 cm holes on left side of neck. Scavenger damage suspected. Purple mottling/bruising of skin on left side of umbilicus. Light grey discolored line on caudal peduncle (birth mark?). Two skin biopsy sites ventral to dorsal fin and just cranial to flukes.

INTERNAL EXAM: Subcutaneous bruising on left dorsal rib cage. *Need measurements.* Abdominal bruising superficial. Hematoma in thoracic cavity above aorta.

BLUBBER: No parasites found.

MUSCULOSKELETON

Axial Muscle: Muscle appeared red, normal.

Axial Skeleton: No fracture found.

Ribs & Sternum: Transverse fracture of 5th rib on right side

CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

Heart: Ductus arteriosus open. Approximately 5 mls of blood present in pericardial sac. Bruising of right ventricle.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Blowholes: No discharge found. No parasites seen.

Trachea: Hemorrhaging of trachea mucosa at thoracic inlet. Mucosa approximately 4 mm thick with hemorrhage.

Lungs: Dark red, firm, consolidated. Resembled liver. Sunk when placed in water and formalin.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Esophagus: Bruising of cranial esophagus.

Fore Stomach: Empty. No ulcers seen. No parasites seen.

Main Stomach: Empty. No parasites seen.

Pyloric Stomach: One white 2 mm calcified object found.

Intestine: Autolyzed. Feces present in colon. Fecal flotation- negative.

Describe food-stuffs found in GI Tract: None present.

Describe parasites found in GI Tract: None found.

Liver: Greenish red, firm. No parasites or abscesses found. Dark red, uniform, parenchyma. No color or texture abnormalities seen.

Pancreas: Dark red, autolyzed.

URINARY SYSTEM

Kidneys: Dark, red, very soft, autolyzed.

Adrenals: Dark red, very soft, autolyzed.

Urinary Bladder: Attached to umbilicus. Empty. No calculi found. Bruising on cranial aspect, close to umbilicus.

ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS

Thymus: Dark red, autolyzed.

Thyroid: Not evaluated.

Pituitary: Not evaluated.

Spleen: Dark red, soft, uniform parenchyma.

Lymph Nodes: Autolyzed, dark red.

REPRODUCTIVE TRACT: Penis extruded. Testicles dark pink.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Brain: Bruising on lateral aspects of skull under blubber. Hemorrhaging of brain medial to dura mater. Brain autolyzed. Blood in lateral sulci.

Spinal Cord: No abnormalities seen.

HEAD

SENSORY ORGANS

Eyes: Left eye missing. Scavenger predation suspected.

CONCLUSIONS: Dolphin appeared to be fully formed fetus which was stillborn. Sinking of lung in water indicated a breath was not taken. There appeared to be trauma to the chest cavity over the heart and midthorax. The trauma is suspected to have occurred during birth/ passage through birth canal.

Carcass Disposition: Burial.

CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION:

This report was generated by: Dr. Connie Chevis

PHOTOS/VIDEO: Yes/No

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