# GROSS NECROPSY REPORT

**SPECIES :** *Tursiops truncatus* **FIELD NUMBER:** 35IMMS022511 **DATE:** 02/26/11

**LOCATION :** Dauphin Island, Al

**LAT:** 30.23127N **LONG:** 088.30974W

**GENDER:** M **TL:** 97 cm **COND :** 3 **WEIGHT :** 19.6 kg

**HISTORY:** This animal was found on Dauphin Island, Al. No other animals were found at the scene, and human interaction with the animal could not be determined. No gear was found or collected. The carcass was transported to IMMS for necropsy.

## NECROPSY

**EXTERNAL EXAM:** Sloughing of skin on dorsal maxilla from rostral aspect to melon. Seven rostral hair follicles are located on the right side. Rostral hairs occupied the caudal two follicles. Five rostral hair follicles are located on the left side. Maxillary and mandibular teeth are erupting bilaterally. The tongue is necrotic and swollen. The eyes are missing bilaterally. There is an irregularly shaped skin erosion circling the blowhole. Fetal folds present bilaterally. The right and left ventrolateral region has multiple pleomorphic size and shape puncture wounds limited to the blubber layer on the cranial two-thirds of the animal. The right pectoral fin is straight and pliable with skin erosions on the proximal caudal and cranial edges. The left pectoral fin is straight and pliable. The dorsal fin is folded to the right. The umbilicus is patent (3.6 cm) with necrotic umbilical cord protruding Irregular shaped area of necrosis and erosions surrounds the umbilicus. The penis is extended and necrotic. The fluke is pliable but folded left over right. Fluke Flat width was 19 cm, bent width was 6.6 cm.

**INTERNAL EXAM:** Abdominal organs completely autolyzed. Tissue samples from abdominal organs were not collected. The thoracic organs are less autolyzed and tissue from the heart and lungs were collected and saved.

**BLUBBER:** appears grossly normal with varying degrees of thickness. Blubber thickness in front of dorsal fin- Dorsal-0.7 cm, lateral-1.0 cm, ventral- 0.9 cm

**MUSCULOSKELETON**
**Axial Muscle:** moderately autolyzed

**Axial Skeleton:** skull appears un-fused at growth plates. Remainder of skeleton appears grossly normal.

**Ribs & Sternum:** no fractures observed

**CIRCULATORY SYSTEM**
**Heart:** PDA present. The heart and portions of the associated pulmonary vasculature and aorta were preserved in formalin.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**
**Blowhole:** patent and no parasites are present.

**Lungs:** The lungs are mildly autolyzed and appear atelectatic. Samples collected did not float when placed into water. The serosal surface is dark and no lesions are present. There are no lesions or parasites in the parenchyma and no exudate in the bronchi.

**DIGESTIVE SYSTEM**
**Esophagus:** Autolyzed

**Fore Stomach:** Autolyzed

**Main Stomach:** Autolyzed

**Pyloric Stomach:** Autolyzed

**Intestine:** Autolyzed

**Describe food-stuffs found in GI Tract:** None

**Describe parasites found in GI Tract:** None

**Liver:** Autolyzed

**Pancreas:** Autolyzed

**URINARY SYSTEM**
**Kidneys:** Autolyzed

**Adrenals:** Autolyzed

**Urinary Bladder:** Autolyzed

**ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS**
**Thymus:** Autolyzed

**Thyroid:** Autolyzed

**Pituitary:** Autolyzed

**Spleen:** Autolyzed

**Lymph Nodes:** Autolyzed

**REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:** Penis necrotic. Both testes located and appear grossly normal.

**CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**
**Brain:** Autolyzed

**Spinal Cord:** Grossly normal

**HEAD** skull non-fused at growth plates

**SENSORY ORGANS**
**Eyes:** Missing bilaterally

**Ears:** Grossly normal

**OTHER:**

**CONCLUSIONS:** Noteworthy findings from gross necropsy would include the condition of the skull. The skull is pliable on palpation and the skull bones are un-fused at the growth plates. The remainder of the skeleton appears to be more normally developed. The lungs appear atelectatic which indicates this animal did not breathe after parturition.

**Carcass Disposition:** Frozen at IMMS

**CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION:** Undetermined from gross necropsy

**This report was generated by:** Dr. Joey Kaletsch and Dr. Connie Chevis

**PHOTOS/VIDEO:** Yes/No

**ASSOCIATED DATA SHEETS:** Level A Data Form, Delphinid Specimen record, NOAA Chain of custody record-PAH, MM Necropsy Tissue form.