

GROSS NECROPSY REPORT

SPECIES : *Tursiops truncatus* **FIELD NUMBER:** 37IMMS022511 **DATE:**02/26/11

LOCATION: Horn Island, south beach, west of ranger station.

LAT: 30.23248 N **LONG:** -88.68180 W

GENDER : Female **TL :** 98.5 cm **COND :** Late 3 **WEIGHT:** 6.8 kg est.

HISTORY: This animal was found in Jackson County, Ms. on the south beach of Horn Island west of the ranger station. This was the only animal found at that location. Human interaction could not be determined. No gear was located or collected. The carcass was transported to IMMS for necropsy.

NECROPSY

EXTERNAL EXAM: The mandible bone is exposed bilaterally and separated at the rostral symphysis six teeth are present in the left mandible. The maxilla bone is bilaterally exposed ventrally and six teeth are present in the left maxilla. There are four rostral hair follicles present on the right and three rostral hair follicles on the left maxilla. Rostral hairs are not present in the follicles. The oral cavity is necrotic and autolyzed. There is a generalized sloughing of the skin bilaterally, dorsally and ventrally. A 10 cm dorsal to ventral by 3 cm cranial to caudal laceration is located ventro-laterally in the mid-cervical region on the left side of the animal. Tissue within the laceration is necrotic and includes deep muscle tissue. Both pectoral fins are straight and pliable with some skin present. The dorsal fin is straight and pliable with some skin present. The umbilicus is open and patent into the abdominal cavity with a small portion of necrotic umbilical cord protruding. The fluke is straight and pliable with some skin present and areas of necrosis on the caudal edge.

INTERNAL EXAM: The abdominal organs were autolyzed and not useful for histopathologic evaluation, therefore tissue samples of abdominal organs were not collected. The thoracic organs were not as autolyzed and tissue from the heart and lungs were collected.

BLUBBER: Collected sections appeared grossly normal with varying degrees of thickness. Blubber thickness in front of dorsal fin- Dorsal 1.4cm, Lat- 1.0 cm, Ven-1.1 cm.

MUSCULOSKELETON

Axial Muscle: superficial and deep musculature is mildly autolyzed with areas of apparent hemorrhage and emphysema.

Axial Skeleton: The cranium is un-fused at the growth plates. Other abnormalities not observed.

Ribs & Sternum: Appears grossly normal

CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

Heart: PDA present. The heart musculature is mildly autolyzed . The heart with portions of attached pulmonary vasculature and aorta was preserved in formalin

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Blowholes: Patent, no parasites observed.

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

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: Autolyzed

CENRTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Brain: Autolyzed

Spinal Cord: appears grossly normal

HEAD

SENSORY ORGANS

Eyes: Missing

Ears: Appear grossly normal

OTHER:

CONCLUSIONS: Noteworthy findings on gross necropsy would include the condition of the skull. The skull bones are pliable upon palpation and un-fused at the growth plates. The remainder of the skeleton appeared to be more normally developed. The lungs appeared atelectatic and did not float in water which would indicate the animal did not take a breath after parturition.

Carcass Disposition:

CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION: Cause of death could not be determined 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, IMMS MM Necropsy Tissue form, Fetus/Neonate form, Chain of custody record-PAH.