ZOOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
STRANDED CETACEAN NECROPSY REPORT

Field ID: 38IMMS022611
Additional Identifier:
ZPP Accession Number: 11-030Tt
Species: *Tursiops truncatus*
Strand Date: 02-26-11
Strand Location: Cat Island, MS
Sex: female
Age Class: fetus
Necropsy Date: 02-26-11
Condition code: 3
Total Length: 86 cm
Weight:
Blubber Depth: 1.4 cm, dorsal
Body Condition:

Gross Necropsy: Gross report not available at time of histologic evaluation. Limited information available in spreadsheet format.

Slides/Tissues Received: 3 regular slides.

Microscopic Findings: Autolysis is severe, impeding interpretation; also widespread colonization by large numbers of postmortem bacteria.

Slide 1:
Heart: No Significant Findings (NSF)

Slide 2:
Lung: Alveoli are diffusely collapsed/atelectatic. Alveoli contain scattered amniotic squames. There is a diffuse, marked increase in cells in alveoli and bronchioles. Rarely cells are recognizable as inflammatory cells (neutrophils).

Slide 3:
Heart: NSF

Final Diagnoses:
1. Fetal atelectasis
2. Severe pneumonia

Comments:

The lungs sank in water grossly and were atelectatic histologically, indicating this animal never breathed air. At 86 cm total length this animal was well below the 115 cm total length expected for term fetuses and was a pre-term fetal death.

While autolysis impeded identification of many cells in the lungs, few were recognizable as inflammatory cells and marked pulmonary cellularity thus reflected inflammation (pneumonia). Similar changes have been noted in several submitted fetuses and are indicative of an in-utero infectious/inflammatory process affecting at least the amnion, and subsequently the fetal lung as the fluid is inhaled. While only low numbers of recognizable amniotic squames were noted, these still were considered consistent with some level of fetal distress, particularly given evidence of pneumonia.

Reported By:

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September 22, 2011