

**GROSS NECROPSY REPORT**

**SPECIES** Tursiops truncatus **FIELD NUMBER** 51IMMS030711 **DATE** 3-11-11

**LOCATION** Waveland MS

**LAT** 30.29057 **LONG** -89.35289

**GENDER** Unknown **TL** 100cm **COND** Code 3 **WEIGHT** 6.8 kg

**HISTORY:** Calf was discovered on beach in Waveland across from Whispering Pines Drive. Carcass was moderately decomposed. No human interaction determined. This was the only animal found at the time. Carcass was transported to IMMS for necropsy report.

**NECROPSY**

**EXTERNAL EXAM:** A code 3 carcass with sloughing skin. Signs of scavenging on floppy dorsal fin and right pectoral fin. Trailing umbilical cord with open umbilicus. Fetal folds present with 4 on left and 5 on right. Protruding tongue. Eyes present but decomposed. Tail flukes floppy and curled. A few rostral hairs present. Only teeth buds observed on maxilla and mandible. Dorsal keel present. Tip of tongue decomposed but appears to be some papillae. Nuchal and caudal blowhole dents present. Gender of animal unable to determine externally due to decomposition. There appears to be external bruising ventral neck and sternum areas. Both tips of flukes missing.

**INTERNAL EXAM:** The first priority was to aseptically collect samples for PAH. The skin/blubber was collected first and then lung. The liver was too decomposed to identify. In fact all of the abdominal organs were autolyzed beyond recognition. The gender could not be determined. The umbilical veins and paired umbilical artery are not identifiable. In the thoracic cavity there was less autolysis. The lungs and heart were identified. Right and left lung pieces sank in water. Thymus sample taken for histopath. A probe patent ductus arteriosus was present but could not visualize a foramen ovale. The lungs were a meaty, brick red color with meaty texture. Epaxial muscle color was pink.

**BLUBBER:** Samples collected for PAH. Thickness at dorsal 0.6 cm, mid 1.1 cm, ventral 0.5 cm.

**MUSCULOSKELETON**

**Axial Muscle:** The epaxial muscles pink with some autolysis and emphysema. The hypaxial muscles exhibited emphysema and hemorrhage. They appeared bruised.

**Axial Skeleton:** The skull was fractured in 2 places on the right dorsal side. This was not at the suture lines. The brain was pink and liquified.

**Ribs & Sternum:** Intact

**CIRCULATORY SYSTEM**

**Heart:** A PDA observed but not a foramen ovale probably due to autolysis. Muscle was autolyzed.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

**Blowhole:** Patent, no parasites observed.

**Lungs:** Atelectatic, brick red color. Both sides sunk in water. No parasites observed.

**DIGESTIVE SYSTEM**

**Esophagus:** Patent

**Fore Stomach:** Autolyzed

**Main Stomach:** Autolyzed

**Pyloric Stomach:** Autolyzed

**Intestine:** Autolyzed

**Describe food-stuffs found in GI Tract:** NA

**Describe parasites found in GI Tract:** NA

**Liver:** Autolyzed

**Pancreas:** Autolyzed

**URINARY SYSTEM**

**Kidneys:** Small amount of kidney identified but autolyzed

**Adrenals:** Autolyzed

**Urinary Bladder:** Autolyzed

**ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS**

**Thymus:** Did identify and sample taken for histopath

**Thyroid:** Not observed

**Pituitary:** Brain autolyzed

**Spleen:** Autolyzed

**Lymph Nodes:** Autolyzed

**REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:** Autolyzed

**CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**

**Brain:** Autolyzed

**Spinal Cord:**Autolyzed

**HEAD**

**SENSORY ORGANS**

**Eyes:** Eyes identified but desiccated

**Ears:** Not identified

**OTHER:**

**CONCLUSIONS:** This carcass showed signs of bruising ventrally. The skull had multiple fractures. There was a trailing umbilical cord approximately 8cm in length and open umbilicus. The lungs did sink in water which indicated no breath taken after parturition. The above trauma probably happened after still born birth.

**Carcass Disposition: Frozen at IMMS**

**CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION:** Could not be determined from gross necropsy.

**This report was generated by:** Dr. Carol Tobias

**TISSUES COLLECTED**

**Virology: NOAA, frozen**

Lung

**Life History: NOAA , Frozen**

Skin – X2 – Genetics and Stable Isotopes

**Frozen: IMMS**

Blubber x4

Muscle x4

Skin x2

**Histo (10% Buffered Formalin): DROT x1**

Lung

Blubber

Skin

**Hydrocarbon: X3 PAH Frozen**

Lung  
Blubber

**PAH: X3**

Swab freeze

**CYP 1A**

Freeze and formalin skin/blubber

**ETOH IMMS**

Skin samples x2

**Whole body frozen**

**Parasites**

No

**PHOTOS/VIDEO: Yes/no**

**Radiographs** Yes- abnormality in skull. Appeared either abnormal development or fracture

**ASSOCIATED DATA SHEETS:** Level A Data Form, Delphinid Specimen record, IMMS MM Necropsy tissue form, Northern Gulf UME Sample Collection Check List, NOAA Chain of custody record.