

**GROSS NECROPSY REPORT**

**SPECIES** Tursiops truncatus **FIELD NUMBER** 65IMMS031711 **DATE** 3/18/11

**LOCATION** Cat Island, MS **LAT**30.23489 **/LONG** -89.06860

**GENDER** Male **TL** 105 cm **COND** 2 **WEIGHT** Approx 25#/ 11.3 kgs

**HISTORY:** Found dead on 3/17/11 on Cat Island, Ms. Only animal in stranding. There was no gear on or near the animal. Signs of human interaction could not be determined.

**NECROPSY**

**NEONATAL CHARACTERS DATA:** Fetal folds were prominent with 7 on left and 7 on right. Rostral hairs were present with 4 on left in the 1,2,3,4 follicle and 3 on the right in the 1,2,3 follicles. The hair in the 3<sup>rd</sup> follicle on the right was broken. Rostral hair follicles were present with 6 on the left and right. The teeth were not erupted but buds were present. Papillae were present. There was a nuchal dent. The dorsal fin was floppy towards the right with a fold present on the right side. The flukes were floppy with a flat width of 25 cm. the bent width was 5.3 cm with the right fluke over the left. There was a dorsal keel crease but not floppy or folded. A caudal blowhole dent was present. The umbilicus was partially healed. The midthoracic blubber thickness was 1.7, 1.3, 1.3 cm (dorsal, lateral, ventral). Epaxial muscle color was medium (light red) at the mid thoracic site. The lung was puffy, red, moderately decomposed and both the left and right lungs floated. The ventricular wall thickness (cm) (ventral, lateral, dorsal) were left- 0.8, 0.6, 0.6; right- 0.7, 0.7, 1. The foramen ovale was open with a 0.8 cm diameter. The ductus arteriosus was open with a 1.5 cm flat diameter at the aorta. The umbilical artery was closed at the umbilicus and ½ way to bladder but open at the base of the bladder. The diameter at the ½ way mark was 0.8 cm, flat diameter. Meconium was present in the distal intestine.

**EXTERNAL EXAM:** Discoloration on the left lateral neck. Both eyes present. Penis protruding slightly. Umbilicus partially patent (0.6 cm).

**INTERNAL EXAM:** Left shoulder joint was normal. There was hemorrhage (edema/blood) in the ventral left mandibular and on the left side of the neck. Blood in the pharyngeal area.

**BLUBBER:** Thickness in front of dorsal fin- 1.5, 1.0, 1.4 cm (dorsal, lateral, ventral)

**MUSCULOSKELETON**

**Axial Muscle:** Pink red colored.

**Axial Skeleton:** No fractures observed.

**Ribs & Sternum:** No fractures observed.

**CIRCULATORY SYSTEM**

**Heart:** Foramen ovale present- 0.8 cm flat diameter. PDA present- 1.5 cm at aorta.  
Blood in the pericardial sac.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

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

**Lungs:** Both lungs floated in water. Pinkish, red and puffy. Bruising around bronchi of left lung. Right lung was firm.

**DIGESTIVE SYSTEM**

**Esophagus:** No food, ulcers or parasites observed.

**Fore Stomach:** The serosal surfaces of all three stomachs were grossly normal. All three stomachs were excised en-block as directed by necropsy protocols and the lumen or mucosal surfaces were not examined.

**Main Stomach:** Entire stomach was removed in entirety for later analysis.

**Pyloric Stomach:** Entire stomach was removed in entirety for later analysis.

**Intestine:** Dark red, and autolyzed/decomposed. No parasites found. Meconium present in distal intestines. Blood in the caudal abdominal cavity.

**Describe food-stuffs found in GI Tract:** Not evaluated due to removed in its entirety.

**Describe parasites found in GI Tract:** Not evaluated due to removed in its entirety.

**Liver:** Nodular and gas filled.

**Pancreas:** Too decomposed to evaluate

**URINARY SYSTEM**

**Kidneys:** no stones or parasites found. Normal architecture.

**Adrenals:** Too decomposed to evaluate

**Urinary Bladder:** Empty, no stones or parasites found.

**ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS**

**Thymus:** Dark red.

**Thyroid:** Too decomposed to evaluate

**Pituitary:** Too decomposed to evaluate

**Spleen:** Mushy and decomposed.

**Lymph Nodes:** Prescapular ln was dark red. Colonic ln- dark red.

**REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:** Reproductive status was immature.

Left testis length- 5.6 cm, width- 1.0 cm, depth- 0.5 cm. Right testis- Length- 5.4 cm, width- 1.0 cm, depth- 0.7 cm. Seminal fluid was absent.

#### **CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**

**Brain:** Hemorrhage in the right caudal skull. Brain contents were too decomposed to evaluate (liquefied). Skull appeared formed.

**Spinal Cord:** Too decomposed to evaluate

#### **HEAD**

##### **SENSORY ORGANS**

**Eyes:** Aqueous humor in left eye was bloody.

**Ears:** No gross abnormalities observed.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Noteworthy lesions/observations include an open foramen ovale, open ductus arteriosus, hemorrhage in the submandibular area and left side of the neck. There was blood in the caudal abdominal cavity, in the pericardial sac and in the pharyngeal area. There was bruising on the back of the skull. The lungs were puffy and floated in water suggesting the dolphin took a breath.

**Carcass Disposition:** Frozen at IMMS

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

**This report was generated by:** Dr. Connie Chevis

**Observers:** Michael Young, Mike Mashburn, Ashley Capps

**PHOTOS/VIDEO:** Yes/No

**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.