

**GROSS NECROPSY REPORT**

*Updated 11/11/2010*

**SPECIES** *Tursiops truncatus* **\_FIELD NUMBER** 68IMMS070510 **DATE** 7/6/2010

**LOCATION** Pass Christian **LAT** 30.18.2 **LONG** -089.15.2

**GENDER** Female **TL** 229 cm **COND** Early Code 3 **WEIGHT** Approx 425#

**HISTORY:** Found dead just out of Pass Christian Harbor, towed in.

**NECROPSY**

**EXTERNAL EXAM:** Ventral right fluke- 2 scars of conspecific rake marks starting on cranial edge and extending medially. 1 cm indentation on cranial edge of distal 1/3 of right fluke. Multiple fresh conspecific rake marks starting on cranial edge of right dorsal fluke and extending caudally. Left fluke distal cranial edge semicircular piece missing. Left flipper- multiple superficial conspecific rake marks. Left flipper caudal edge just distal to P5 had small semicircular piece missing- healed. Left lateral body- just above genital slit had large grayish white discoloration. Lateral body above discoloration and multiple superficial scrapes. Left tip of dorsal fin had multiple conspecific rake marks. Dorsal fin caudal edge- 3 semicircular areas missing. Right melon scarred with conspecific rake marks. Left lateral neck had multiple excoriations. Right side lateral to umbilicus and 2 linear superficial rake marks. Lower abdomen appeared swollen due to enlarged mammary glands. Milk was expressed on collection of animal. Ventral peduncle caudal to genital slit had multiple conspecific rake marks. Right teat had scarred conspecific rake marks. Blood poured out of blowhole when turned over. Multiple healed scrapes over left eye. Lower mandible (chin)- circular red indentation with multiple linear cuts. Most of the teeth were missing. On right maxilla only 7 teeth present. Starting at caudal mouth and counting forward (cranially) the following teeth were present- 1,2,5,6 (broken root),9,12,17. Teeth 5,6, 9 were broken or worn. Right mandible- no teeth present. Left mandible – only 8 teeth present- caudal to cranial- 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9. Left maxilla 7 teeth present- caudal to cranial- 1,2,3,9,10,11,17.

**INTERNAL EXAM:**

**BLUBBER:** Medial ½ of blubber layer around left side of head and chest was reddish tinged.

**MUSCULOSKELETON**

**Axial Muscle:** Muscle behind head caudal to mandible was dark red and hemorrhagic.

**Axial Skeleton:** NAF

**Ribs & Sternum:** NAF

**CIRCULATORY SYSTEM**

**Heart:** Coronary vessels were dark red and hemorrhagic. Minimal fat around coronary vessels. Pericardium was dark purple. Some bloody fluid present. 60 mls of serosanguineous fluid present in left thorax.

#### **RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

**Blowhole:** Serosanguineous fluid poured out of blowhole.

**Lungs:** Mild parasitemia- long slender worms. Several nodules throughout both lungs. Right lateral lung surface had 1.7 cm raised caseous abscess. Clotted blood in trachea and bronchi. Tracheal wall thickened and hemorrhagic. Approx. 60 mls of serosanguineous fluid in right and left thorax.

#### **DIGESTIVE SYSTEM**

**Esophagus:** Empty. No ulcers seen.

**Fore Stomach:** Empty. No ulcers seen. No parasites seen.

**Main Stomach:** Empty. 2 otoliths seen.

**Pyloric Stomach:** Empty.

**Intestine:** No parasites found.

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

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

**Liver:** No parasites found.

**Pancreas:** No abnormalities found.

#### **URINARY SYSTEM**

**Kidneys:** Dark red throughout. No kidney stones seen.

**Adrenals: Left-** Dark red.

**Urinary Bladder:** Empty. No bladder stones seen.

#### **ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS**

**Thymus:** Not found.

**Thyroid:** Not found.

**Pituitary:** Small. No abnormalities found.

**Spleen:** Dark red.

**Lymph Nodes:** Dark red.

**REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:** Three approx 3 cm swellings filled with mucopurulent material in the uterus. Mammary glands were full of milk. Uterus was approx 3 cm in diameter, flaccid and mucosa was dark red.

**CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**

**Brain:** Grey matter appeared atrophied.

**Spinal Cord:** WNL. Clotted blood present in spinal canal.

**HEAD**

**SENSORY ORGANS**

**Eyes:** WNL.

**Ears:** WNL.

**OTHER:**

**CONCLUSIONS:** Uterine infection/inflammation- possibly postpartum (>1 month). Lactating. Possible hemorrhagic syndrome. Old animal due to multiple tooth loss.

**Carcass Disposition:** Frozen. Put in BP evidence truck.

**CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION:** Rule outs- Old age, septicemia due to uterine infection, hemorrhagic syndrome.

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

**TISSUES COLLECTED**

**Frozen: IMMS Research**

Milk  
Teeth  
Blubber  
Muscle  
Liver  
Left kidney

**Histo (10% Buffered Formalin): DROT x 2, IMMS x 2**

Lung  
Trachea  
Heart- R,L atrium, R,L ventricle  
Aorta

Pulmonary artery  
Tongue  
Esophagus  
Stomach  
Duodenum  
Jejunum  
Ileum  
Colon  
Pancreas  
Spleen  
Liver  
Brain  
Kidney  
Ureter  
Urinary bladder  
Blubber  
Bone marrow  
Spinal cord  
L mammary gland  
L adrenal  
Skin  
Left eye (1)  
Muscle  
Uterus  
Vagina  
Cervix  
Suprascapular Ln  
Tracheobronchial Ln  
Submandibular Ln  
Forestomach  
Nodule from left lung- DROT only

**Hydrocarbon analysis:**

Gauze swabs- blowhole and axilla  
Bile  
Blood  
Liver x 2  
Kidney x2  
Muscle x 2  
Lung x 2  
Intestine x 2  
Blubber x 2  
Abdominal fluid in amber vial  
Thoracic fluid in amber vial

**Virology samples:**

Pharyngeal swab  
Blowhole swab  
Lung  
Fecal  
Cerebellum

Cerebrum  
Spinal cord  
Spleen  
Liver  
kidney

**Cryovials for Dr. Overstreet parasite study:**

70%Ethanol  
Boiuns soln  
10% formalin

**Cultures for bacterial/fungal cultures:**

Uterus- **Results:** 1+ Vibrio parahaemolyticus, 1+ Vibrio damsela. No fungus isolated at 2 weeks

Lung- **Results:** 1+ Plesiomonas shigelloides, Scant Providencia stuartii, 1\_ Edwardsiella tarda.  
No fungus isolated at 2 weeks

Blowhole

**PHOTOS/VIDEO: Yes/No**

**ASSOCIATED DATA SHEETS:** Level A data sheet, Chain of custody record, NOAA  
Photograph log, Delphinid specimen record, IMMS Specimen collection sheet, Dr. Romero  
specimen sheet.