

**GROSS NECROPSY REPORT**

**SPECIES** Tursiops truncatus **FIELD NUMBER** 96IMMS052211 **DATE** 9/13/2011

**LOCATION** W. Ship Island. Ship Channel- ½ mile WSW of West Tip  
**LAT**30.20455 /**LONG**88.99268

**GENDER** Male **TL** 206 cm **COND** code 3 **WEIGHT** 136 kgs estimated

**HISTORY:** Found floating in ship channel ½ mile WSW of West Tip of Ship Island on 5/22/2011. NPS towed animal to Courthouse Pier, Gulfport, Ms. Only animal in stranding. Findings of Human Interaction could not be determined. The dolphin was moderately decomposed. Skin was collected for genetics and stable isotopes. The dolphin was taken to IMMS Necropsy Lab and frozen for later necropsy.

**NECROPSY**

**EXTERNAL EXAM:** Teeth- Upper right=22, Lower right=23. Lower left=22, Upper left=21. Total of 88 teeth. Bruising/hemorrhaging was present on the right throat area. There was evidence of bird scavenging around the right eye. Skin was missing on the right thorax. The anterior left fin had skin missing. Rake marks were present on the right lateral abdomen. The penis was protruding and the genital slit was swollen. Bruising was present on the right dorsal lateral melon. Skin was sloughed on the dorsal fluke and ventral fluke. The anterior edge of the right fluke had healed conspecific rake marks. The ventral peduncle had rake marks. Hemorrhaging posterior/caudal to the genital area with bruising. Skin loss present on left jaw and left eye. Bruising on the ventral side between the pectoral fins. The left pectoral fin had skin loss. Bird scavenging present on the left thorax. Healed conspecific rake marks on the left ventral abdomen cranial to the genital slit, Pin point round rake marks. Left eye sunken in. Reddish nodule, dark red around the peduncle area. Right eye present. Sloughing of skin on right flipper. Dorsal right fluke had skin missing. Healed conspecific rake marks on the right lateral side.

**INTERNAL EXAM:** Left shoulder had no arthritic lesions. Large amount of fluid present in the abdomen. Left testis: length- 8.3 cm. Width= 2.0 cm, Depth= 2.3 cm. Right testis: Length= 8.9 cm, Width= 1.9, Depth= 2.2 cm.

**BLUBBER:** Thickness- In front of dorsal fin= dorsal=1.6 cm, lat=1.0 cm, ventral= 1.4 cm.

**MUSCULOSKELETON**

**Axial Muscle:** Hemorrhaging on the neck and ventral mandible. Hemorrhaging along the pectoral musculature. Hemorrhaging on the left lateral thorax.

**Axial Skeleton:** No fractures found.

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

### **CIRCULATORY SYSTEM**

**Heart:** Valves appeared normal. Pericardial sac had 10 to 15 mls of fluid. Left ventricle had a transverse muscular band.

### **RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

**Blowhole:** Trachea was full of dark black blood.

**Lungs:** Fluid in left thorax. Left lung had generalized red and pink mottling. There were pale clear lines which appeared to be enlarged lymphatic vessels with edema. Both lungs had multiple generalized nodules. Right lung had blood tinged bronchi extending to periphery. Few parasites present.

### **DIGESTIVE SYSTEM**

**Esophagus:** No food, parasites or ulcers were present in the esophagus.

**Fore Stomach:** Entire stomach was collected in situ and frozen for later evaluation.

**Main Stomach:** Entire stomach was collected in situ and frozen for later evaluation.

**Pyloric Stomach:** Entire stomach was collected in situ and frozen for later evaluation.

**Intestine:** Peritoneal cavity had bubbly green purple mottling. Fibrinous adhesions were present. Samples were taken.

**Describe food-stuffs found in GI Tract:** Unable to evaluate stomach contents due to collection in situ. No food in esophagus.

**Describe parasites found in GI Tract:** Unable to evaluate stomach parasites due to collection in situ. No parasites in esophagus. No parasites in intestines.

**Liver:** Serosa had fibrin tags. Irregular dimples were present. Suspected to be autolysis. No parasites found.

**Pancreas:** No gross abnormalities found.

### **URINARY SYSTEM**

**Kidneys:** Dark red, green serosa. No stones or parasites seen.

**Adrenals:** Left had circular brownish discoloration. Medulla was dark red.

**Urinary Bladder:** Small amount of urine present in bladder. Urine was pink tinged.

### **ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS**

**Thymus:** Not present

**Thyroid:** No gross abnormalities seen.

**Pituitary:** no gross abnormalities seen.

**Spleen:** Dark red.

**Lymph Nodes:** No gross abnormalities found.

**REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:**

Left testis- Length= 8.3, width=2.0, Depth= 2.3 cm

Right testis- Length=8.9, Width= 1.9, Depth= 2.2 cm.

**CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**

**Brain:**

**Spinal Cord:**

Blood surrounding spinal cord.

**HEAD**

**SENSORY ORGANS**

**Eyes:** Left eye sunken in.

**Ears:** no gross abnormalities found.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Significant lesions were signs of hemorrhaging. There was hemorrhaging on the neck and ventral mandible; along the pectoral musculature; on the left lateral thorax and the spinal column had hemorrhaging around the spinal cord. The abdominal cavity had a large amount of serosanguineous fluid with adhesions of the intestines to the ventral abdominal peritoneum. The pericardial sac had 10 to 15 mls of blood. The trachea was full of dark red blood. There was serosanguineous fluid in left thorax. The left lung had pale clear lines which appeared to be enlarged lymphatic vessels with edema. Both lungs had multiple generalized nodules. Right lung had blood tinged bronchi extending to periphery.

**Carcass Disposition:** Frozen and stored at IMMS, Gulfport, MS

**CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION:** Hemorrhagic syndrome of unidentified etiology

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

**Observers:** Dr. Tim Morgan, Eric Pulis, Corey Russo, Mike Andres, Joey Mitchell, Rochelle Williams, Stephanie Wolf

Culturettes - Abdominal Fluid, Thoracic Fluid- Micrim- Thoracic-Heavy growth of Proteus mirabilis. Abdominal-Light growth of Steno. Maltophilia and Enterococcus sp.

**PHOTOS/VIDEO:** Yes/No

**ASSOCIATED DATA SHEETS:** Necropsy Data Sheets(Original) - UME Sample Collection Checklist, HI form, Delphinid Specimen Record, Photo Log  
Necropsy Data Sheets(Copy) - UME Sample Collection Checklist, HI form, Delphinid Specimen