

GROSS NECROPSY REPORT 11/16/08 JW/DMF (4)

SPECIES *T. truncatus* FIELD NUMBER BP-2010-LA407 DATE 4-Sept-10

LOCATION Slidell, LA LAT 30.1754°N /LONG -89.69735°W

GENDER Female TL 212.1cm COND 2 → 3+ WEIGHT N/E

HISTORY:

Field ID: MCT-20100905-LA001

On 9/4/2010, carcass was reported by a recreational angler and call was 90min cold on 9/4/2010 at 30.1623027N / -89.6644138W. An additional reporting said the carcass was at the end of the barge line where they were staged blocking Rigolets Pass (30. 175616N / -89.69687 W). LDWF CSAI Marine Fisheries Staff reported to initial location in an effort to locate the carcass. A BP worker reported the same animal in another location not far from original reported sighting and MCT, LDWF asked him to go back out and try to secure the carcass if possible. He returned to the area, searched for awhile, and met up with LDWF staff out on the water as well and neither vessel was able to locate the animal. Effort was called off after several hours and 40miles of transect searching.

On 9/5/2010, a caller reported seeing the carcass and was able to use the vessel to push the animal in a grassy marsh area so that it would stay for LDWF staff to respond to it. Time Seizure 15:0. LDWF photographed, sampled, and retained carcass that afternoon. Obtained DNA skin sample and one tooth – placed in DMSO vial, and three gauze swab samples per MC252 oil spill protocol. No obvious external oiling present. Carcass was transported that evening to Audubon and placed immediately into walk-in cooler. Necropsy commenced on 8-Sept-10 with Cara Field, DVM and Marina Piscitelli present.

NECROPSY**EXTERNAL EXAM:**

On 9/4/2010, carcass was floating, R side recumbent, near Rigolets Pass. Carcass was fresh dead with no scavenger damage evident. At time of seizure on 9/5/2010, carcass was beginning to bloat and had very little scavenger damage to jaw fats, eyes, and ventral belly. On 9/8/2010, when necropsy commenced carcass was very bloated (girth CBD) and greenish in color with epidermis peeling off in sheets. No obvious evidence of human interaction, although difficult to tell with advanced state of decomposition.

INTERNAL EXAM:

L pleural cavity contained ~ 200-300mL of dark red fluid, while R pleural cavity contained ~ 50-60mL of dark red-tinged fluid. Abdominal cavity contained ~ 100mL of red tinged fluid.

BLUBBER:

Blubber was very tacky and well adhered to adjacent muscle. Thin thickness; blubber thickness at mid-thorax (mm) = 8.0 (dorsal), 7.0 (lateral), 7.0 (ventral). Throughout entire thoracic region blubber layers were stained pink-red throughout depth (histo).

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MUSCULOSKELETON

Axial Muscle: Dry, tacky, friable, no lipid expressed upon cut. Dark brick-red throughout. NVL.

Pectoral Girdle: R gleno-humeral joint was dry; otherwise, NVL.

Axial Skeleton: No broken bones observed.

Ribs & Sternum: No broken bones observed.

CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

Heart: Pericardium opaque, red-tinged in color. Heart was flaccid with little IVS fat apparent. Apex of R ventricle was darkened red, appeared grape jelly-like, approximately 2x3cm in size (hemorrhage?). Upon cut, associated external lesion corresponded to clot in ventricular wall (collected entire area for histo). L ventricle NVL. Ventricular wall thicknesses (mm) = 1.5cm (left), 0.7cm (right). R atrium had a focal area approximately 3x4cm of dark red jelly (hemorrhage?) – collected for histo. Aorta NVL. Pulmonary artery NVL.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Blowholes: Bloated and epidermis sloughing; otherwise NVL.

Lungs: Both R & L lungs were collapsed, pink-red on serosal surface, ventral margins un-inflated. Upon cut of L lung, parenchyma was pink throughout, no parasites. R lung was darker brick-red in color throughout and congested (R side recumbent on beach/water). R lung adhesion on mid-dorsal pleural wall extending caudally to diaphragm. Trachea NVL.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Esophagus: Empty, mucosa sloughing off; otherwise NVL.

Fore Stomach: Full of 8-9 whole fish with black specs of material mixed in (collected in ziplock). Mucosa NVL, no parasites, no ulcers, small amount of mucosal sloughing.

Main Stomach: Contained ~ 30mL of red tinged brown fluid- collected in vial. Moderate load of *Braunina* present. No ulcers present.

Pyloric Stomach: Empty, mucosa NVL.

Intestine: Mesenteries engorged. Dorsal serosal surface of intestines appeared red-purple throughout in spray-paint-like fashion. L side retroperitoneal hemorrhage present. Upon cut, mucosa NVL, no parasites, no ulcers. Distal intestine contained moderate amount of dark brown-yellow, gritty, viscous fluid. Similar colon contents to that of distal intestine.

Liver: Serosal surface NVL, congested, heavy. Upon cut, parenchyma dark purple throughout, sticky to the touch. Autolyzed.

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Pancreas: autolyzed, NVL

URINARY SYSTEM

Kidneys: L & R kidney were NVL, no evident inter-renal fat present. Upon cut, brick-red throughout, loss of cortico-medullary boundaries. Autolyzed.

Adrenals: R & L adrenals were soft and autolyzed.

Urinary Bladder: Empty, NVL.

ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS

Spleen: Enlarged (decomposition?). Homogenously dark purple on both serosal and cut surfaces. NVL.

Lymph Nodes:

Caudal mediastinal LN was soft to the touch and dark brown throughout. Mesenteric LN, upon cut, was beige throughout, ~2x3cm in size, not reactive. Hepatic LN, upon cut, was beige pink medulla, dark purple cortex, reactive.

REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:

Sub-adult female. Mid-length uterine horn dimensions (mm) = 10 (left), 7 (right). L & R ovaries had a faint crease along mid-length, too small to measure depth, otherwise NVL. No evidence of previous or current pregnancies.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Brain: autolyzed

Spinal Cord: soft, NVL

HEAD

Melon NVL. Teeth NVL. R eye NVL, no evident ulcers. Tongue possessed medium to long length papillae, max = 0.5cm long. Palate had diffuse regions of rugose, hardened lesions.

CONCLUSIONS:

Sub-adult, emaciated female. Moderate to advanced state of decomposition at time of necropsy. Effusion of both R & L pleural cavities. Both R & L lungs collapsed, with R lung also possessing an adhesion along dorsal pleural surface. Abdominal cavity contained ~ 100mL of red tinged fluid. Dorsal serosal surface of intestines appeared red-purple throughout in spray-paint-like fashion. L side retroperitoneal hemorrhage present. Blubber was thin and well-adhered to adjacent muscle, which was very tacky and friable. Heart was flaccid with little IVS fat apparent. Apex of R ventricle was darkened red, appeared grape jelly-like. Upon cut, associated external lesion corresponded to clot in ventricular wall. R atrium had a focal area approximately 3x4cm of dark red jelly. Palate had diffuse regions of rugose, hardened lesions. Fore stomach was full of 8-9 whole fish

with black specs of material mixed in. Main stomach possessed a moderate load of *Braunina*.

Carcass Disposition: grunt frozen at AAC

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This report was generated by: C. Field, DVM & M. Piscitelli

TISSUES COLLECTED

Hydrocarbon Frozen Tissues (-10°C):

- Three epidermal gauze swabs
- Epidermis
- Mid-thoracic blubber
- Epaxial muscle
- R lung
- Colon contents x1 vial
- Blood x1 vial
- Liver
- Intestine
- Main stomach fluid x1 vial

Histo (10% Buffered Formalin):

- Mid-thoracic blubber
- Epaxial muscle
- Bone marrow
- Caudal mediastinal LN
- L lung
- R lung
- R ventricle
- L ventricle
- L ventricle apex lesion
- L atrium
- R atrium lesion
- Aorta
- Pulmonary artery
- Diaphragm
- R adrenal
- Reproductive tract whole (L ovary notched)
- R kidney
- L adrenal

Histo (cont'd):

- Colon
- Hepatic LN
- Mid-intestine
- Spleen
- Liver
- Pancreas
- Fore stomach
- Main stomach
- Pyloric stomach
- Mesentery LN
- Spinal Cord
- R eye - whole

Frozen (-10°C):

- Stomach contents x1 ziplock

DMSO: Epidermis and tooth x1 vial (in folder)

PHOTOS/VIDEO: Yes – photos (both field and necropsy)

ASSOCIATED DATA SHEETS: Oiled Marine Mammal Necropsy Report, Chain of Custody, Level A, Photologs