GROSS NECROPSY REPORT

SPECIES : *Tursiops truncatus* **FIELD NUMBER:** 35IMMS022511 **DATE:** 02/26/11

LOCATION : Dauphin Island, Al

LAT: 30.23127N **LONG:** 088.30974W

GENDER: M **TL:** 97 cm **COND :** 3 **WEIGHT :** 19.6 kg

HISTORY: This animal was found on Dauphin Island, Al. No other animals were found at the scene, and human interaction with the animal could not be determined. No gear was found or collected. The carcass was transported to IMMS for necropsy.

NECROPSY

EXTERNAL EXAM: Sloughing of skin on dorsal maxilla from rostral aspect to melon. Seven rostral hair follicles are located on the right side. Rostral hairs occupied the caudal two follicles. Five rostral hair follicles are located on the left side. Maxillary and mandibular teeth are erupting bilaterally. The tongue is necrotic and swollen. The eyes are missing bilaterally. There is an irregularly shaped skin erosion circling the blowhole. Fetal folds present bilaterally. The right and left ventrolateral region has multiple pleomorphic size and shape puncture wounds limited to the blubber layer on the cranial two-thirds of the animal. The right pectoral fin is straight and pliable with skin erosions on the proximal caudal and cranial edges. The left pectoral fin is straight and pliable. The dorsal fin is folded to the right. The umbilicus is patent (3.6 cm) with necrotic umbilical cord protruding Irregular shaped area of necrosis and erosions surrounds the umbilicus. The penis is extended and necrotic. The fluke is pliable but folded left over right. Fluke Flat width was 19 cm, bent width was 6.6 cm.

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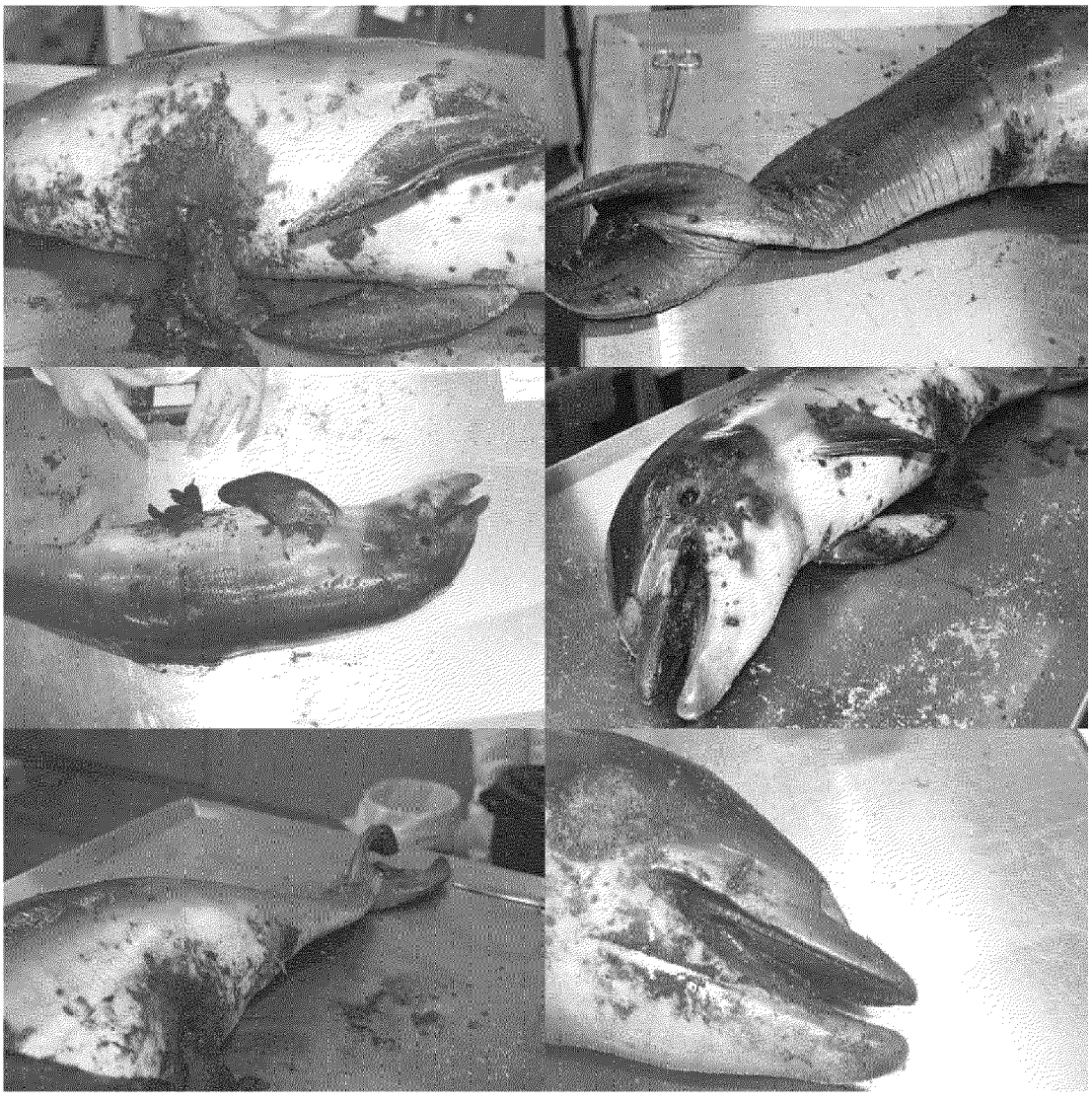

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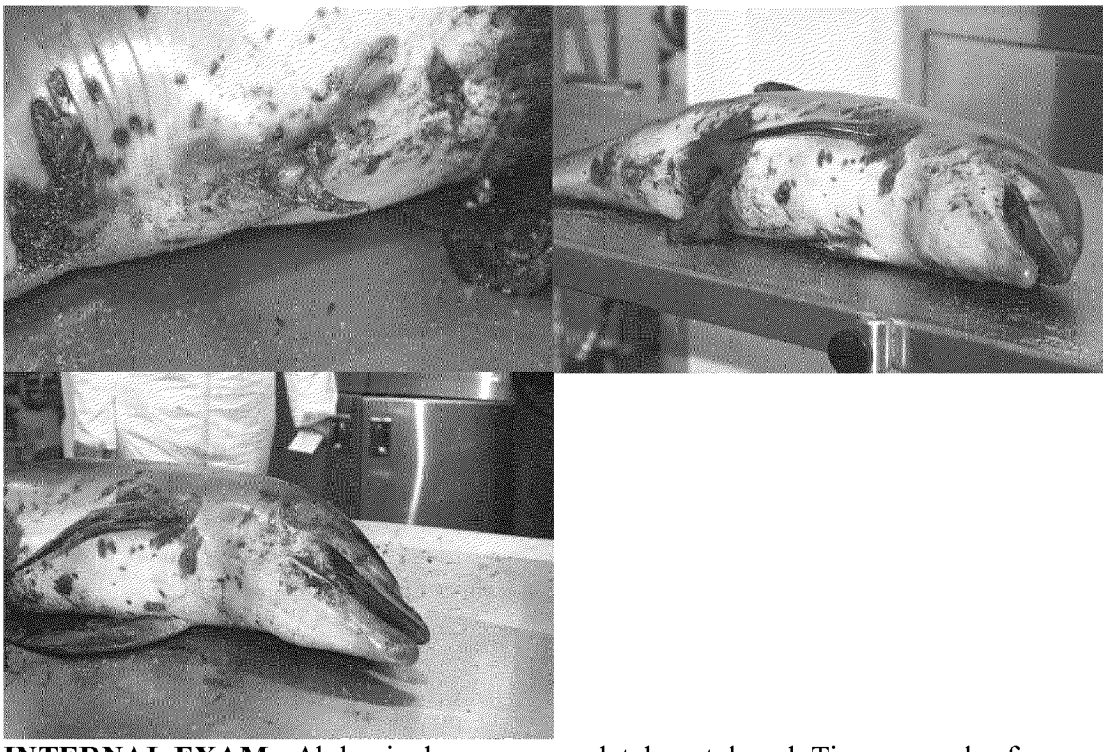
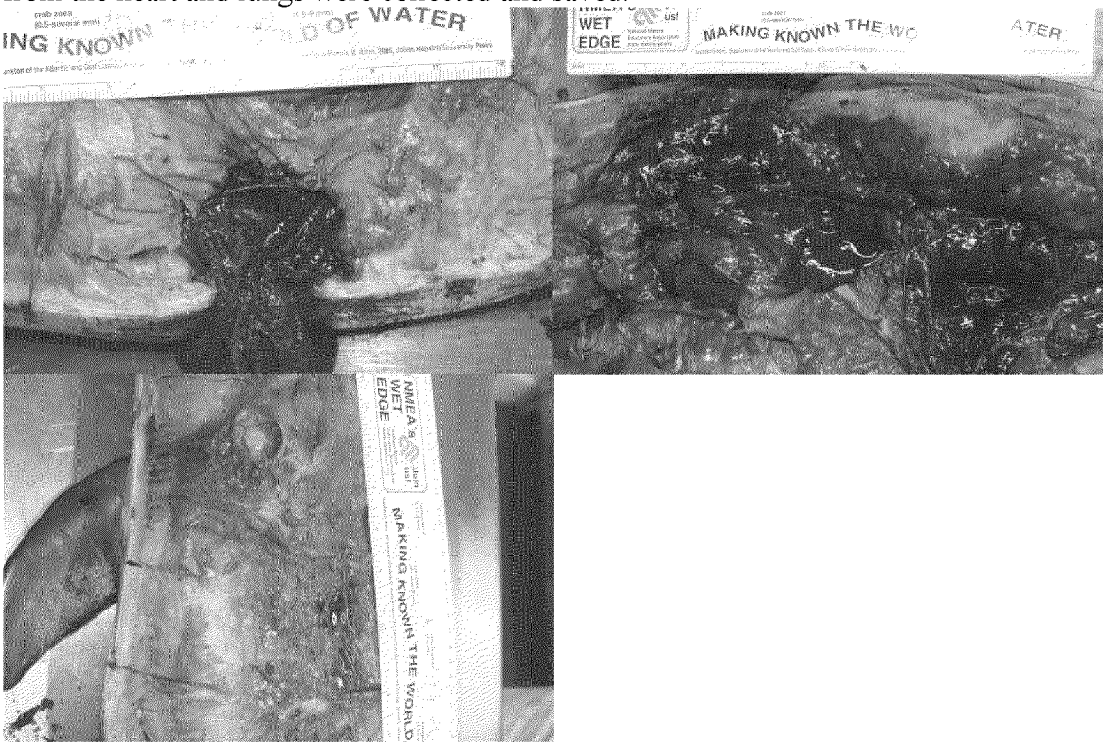


INTERNAL EXAM: Abdominal organs completely autolyzed. Tissue samples from abdominal organs were not collected. The thoracic organs are less autolyzed and tissue from the heart and lungs were collected and saved.



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BLUBBER: appears grossly normal with varying degrees of thickness. Blubber thickness in front of dorsal fin- Dorsal-0.7 cm, lateral-1.0 cm, ventral- 0.9 cm

MUSCULOSKELETON
Axial Muscle: moderately autolyzed

Axial Skeleton: skull appears un-fused at growth plates. Remainder of skeleton appears grossly normal.

Ribs & Sternum: no fractures observed

CIRCULATORY SYSTEM
Heart: PDA present. The heart and portions of the associated pulmonary vasculature and aorta were preserved in formalin.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM
Blowhole: patent and no parasites are present.

Lungs: The lungs are mildly autolyzed and appear atelectatic. Samples collected did not float when placed into water. The serosal surface is dark and no lesions are present. There are no lesions or parasites in the parenchyma and no exudate in the bronchi.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM
Esophagus: Autolyzed

Fore Stomach: Autolyzed

Main Stomach: Autolyzed

Pyloric Stomach: Autolyzed

Intestine: Autolyzed

Describe food-stuffs found in GI Tract: None

Describe parasites found in GI Tract: None

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Liver: Autolyzed

Pancreas: Autolyzed

URINARY SYSTEM
Kidneys: Autolyzed

Adrenals: Autolyzed

Urinary Bladder: Autolyzed

ENDOCRINE & HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEMS
Thymus: Autolyzed

Thyroid: Autolyzed

Pituitary: Autolyzed

Spleen: Autolyzed

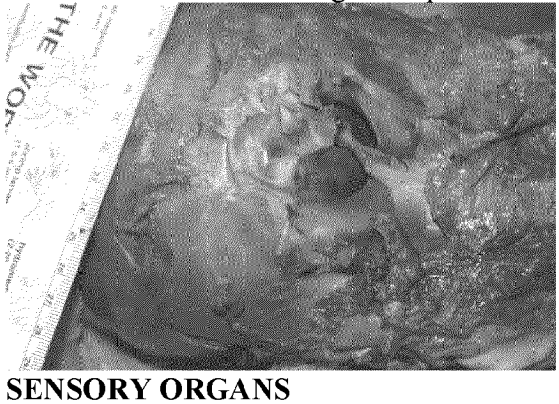
Lymph Nodes: Autolyzed

REPRODUCTIVE TRACT: Penis necrotic. Both testes located and appear grossly normal.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM
Brain: Autolyzed

Spinal Cord: Grossly normal

HEAD skull non-fused at growth plates



SENSORY ORGANS
Eyes: Missing bilaterally

Ears: Grossly normal

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OTHER:

CONCLUSIONS: Noteworthy findings from gross necropsy would include the condition of the skull. The skull is pliable on palpation and the skull bones are un-fused at the growth plates. The remainder of the skeleton appears to be more normally developed. The lungs appear atelectatic which indicates this animal did not breathe after parturition.

Carcass Disposition: Frozen at IMMS

CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION: Undetermined from gross necropsy

This report was generated by: Dr. Joey Kaletsch and Dr. Connie Chevis

TISSUES COLLECTED

Frozen: IMMS X2
Blubber
Muscle
Teeth- left lower jaw
Lung
Skull
Spinal cord

Histo (10% Buffered Formalin): DROT X1, IMMS X2
Lung
Muscle
Gonads-left and right

Hydrocarbon: X2
Lung
Blubber

Viral: Dr. Romero
Lung
BH swab
Spinal cord—tissue and swab

Culture Swabs for Memorial Hospital Gulfport
Lung- left- No growth after 48 hours. No fungus at 2 weeks.
Spinal cord- Scant Gram negative rod. No fungus at 2 weeks.
Brain- No growth after 48 hours. No fungus at 2 weeks.

PHOTOS/VIDEO: Yes/No

ASSOCIATED DATA SHEETS: Level A Data Form, Delphinid Specimen record, NOAA Chain of custody record-PAH, MM Necropsy Tissue form.

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