

## GROSS NECROPSY REPORT

**SPECIES** *Tursiops truncatus* **FIELD NUMBER** 83IMMS102210 **DATE** 10/25/2010

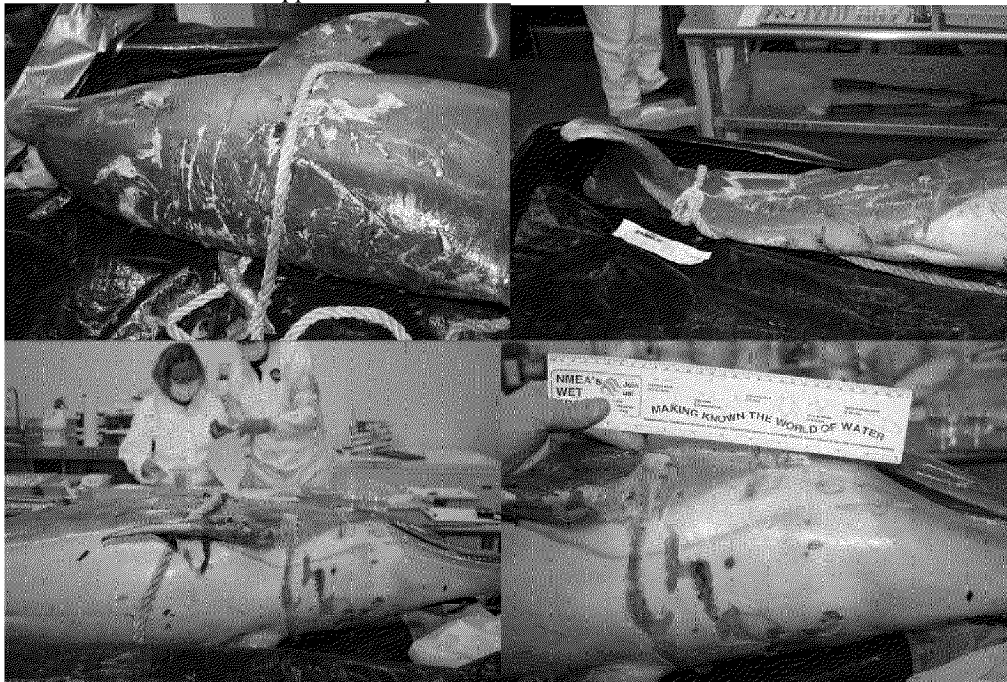
**LOCATION** Towed from Bayou Caddy to Ladner Seafood Pier, Waveland, MS **LAT**30.24686/**LONG**-89.43533

**GENDER** Female **TL** 176 cm **COND** 3 **WEIGHT** 79 kgs (Estimated)

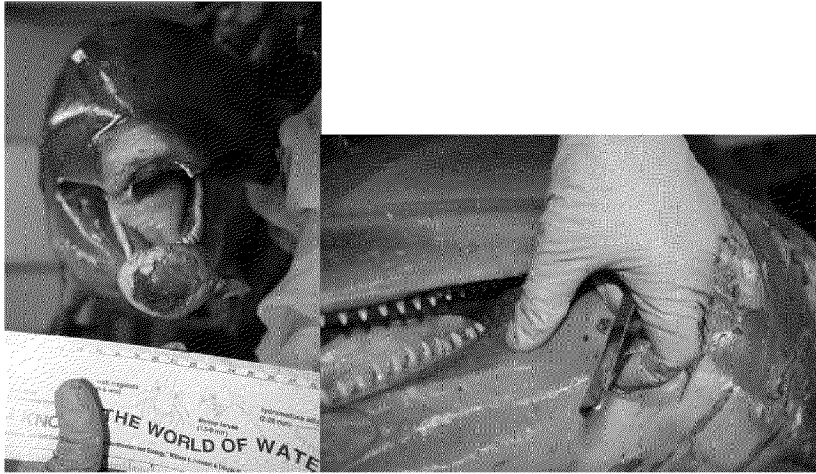
**HISTORY:** DMR found the dolphin dead while responding to a fire. The dolphin was towed in to the pier by the Silver Slipper Casino. The rope was left tied to the dolphin and was on the dolphin at necropsy.

### NECROPSY

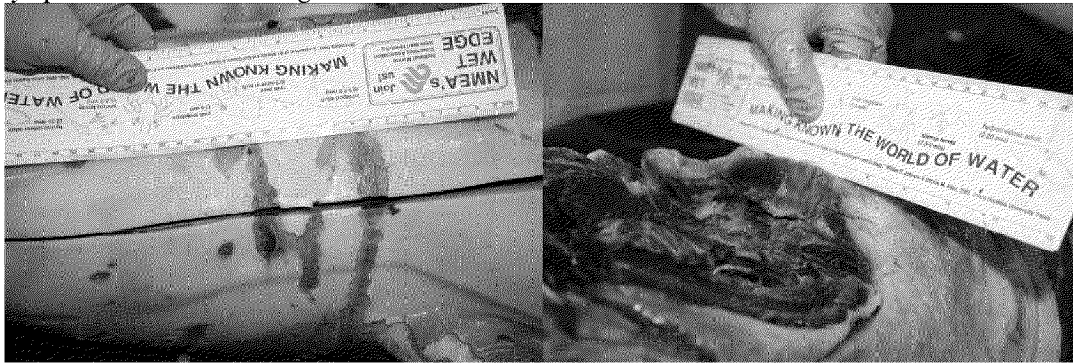
**EXTERNAL EXAM:** Large rope tied to peduncle and tied behind axilla. Dolphin had been towed in. Multiple conspecific rake marks on entire body, on flukes and dorsal fin. Six linear deep lesions around genitalia. 3 large linear lesions in front of flippers. Hemorrhaging visible under linear lesions. Bruising of blubber evident. Lesions appear to be rope lesions.



Rostrum of mandible- red, loss of epithelium 3 cm x 3 cm. Multiple healed conspecific rake marks on dorsal rostrum and melon. Teeth- Lower right jaw- 20 teeth, upper right jaw- 21 teeth with 2 missing (most cranial). Lower left jaw- 22 teeth, upper left jaw- 22 teeth with 1 missing (most cranial), #2 (counting from caudal jaw) was broken. Post nuchal indentation ("Peanut Head"). Indentation ventral to dorsal fin, slight visible peduncle vertebrae. Right eye sunken in, epithelium missing around eyelid with red submucosa. Loss of epithelium on back, flukes and flippers. Indentation on right mid lateral peduncle- shape of a rope but had been lying on that side on top of rope. Bilateral lower jaw bruised and ventral tongue was edematous. Two healed semicircular scars on left peduncle- appear to be shark bite scars.



**INTERNAL EXAM:** Bruising of blubber layer where linear lesions around neck were present. Prescapular lymph nodes were hemorrhagic. Ear canal was normal.



**BLUBBER:** Bruising of blubber on neck and back. No parasites seen in blubber.

**MUSCULOSKELETON**

**Axial Muscle:** No parasites found.

**Axial Skeleton:** No fractures found.

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

**CIRCULATORY SYSTEM**

**Heart:** Valves within normal limits. No parasites seen.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

**Blowholes:** No parasites seen.

**Lungs:** Generalized granulomatous pneumonia in both lungs. Few parasites seen- long white linear. Suspect parasitic pneumonia. Left lung was dark red and hemorrhagic. Right lung was pink.



## DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

**Tongue:** Edematous under tongue.

**Esophagus:** No ulcers seen. No food in esophagus.

**Fore Stomach:** no food in esophagus. Several otoliths present.

**Main Stomach:** No food in main stomach. 2 parasites encysted in stomach wall.

**Pyloric Stomach:** Yellow liquid (frozen) in pyloric stomach. One parasite nodule found in stomach wall.

**Intestine:** One of the mesenteric arteries was very large and hemorrhagic on left side, leading into intestine.



**Describe food-stuffs found in GI Tract:** No food. Only several otoliths.

**Describe parasites found in GI Tract:** Nodular cyst in stomach wall. 3 found.

**Liver:** Some dark discoloration possible bruising.



**Pancreas:** Normal size and color.

#### **URINARY SYSTEM**

**Kidneys:** No kidney stones found. Normal size and color.

**Adrenals:** Left adrenal gland slightly pale. Right adrenal gland had mottled reddish, light brown discoloration of cortex and part of the medulla.



**Urinary Bladder:** No bladder stones found. Normal mucosa.

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

**Thymus:** Not present.

**Thyroid:** Normal color and size.

**Pituitary:** Appeared small.

**Spleen:** Smooth even dark red color.

**Lymph Nodes:** Colonic, inguinal, suprascapular and tracheobronchial lymph nodes appeared enlarged with greenish, red mottled discoloration (hemorrhage).



**REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:** Non gravid. No follicles or cyst on ovaries.

#### **CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**

**Brain:** Hemorrhage in sulci. Skull lining hemorrhagic. Worse on cerebral left hemisphere. Cerebrum appeared to extend into C2.



**Spinal Cord:** No abnormality seen.

## **HEAD**

### **SENSORY ORGANS**

**Eyes:** Right eye sunken in.

**Ears:** Ear canals normal

**CONCLUSIONS:** DMR found the dolphin dead while responding to a fire. The dolphin was towed in to the pier by the Silver Slipper Casino. The rope was left tied to the dolphin and was on the dolphin at necropsy. Multiple linear lesions were present on the cranial peduncle and neck with hemorrhaging visible and bruising to the blubber layer. The rope present on the dolphin was not on these areas. Premortem entanglement/entrapment by rope was suspected ie crab trap rope. There were many healed and fresh conspecific rake marks. Bilateral granulomatous pneumonia which was suspected to be verminous pneumonia was found. The forestomach and main stomach were empty and there was evidence of weight loss.

**Carcass Disposition:** BP Evidence truck freezer.

## **CAUSE OF DEATH FROM FIELD DETERMINATION:**

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

## **TISSUES COLLECTED**

### **Frozen: IMMS X2**

Blubber  
Muscle  
Liver  
Teeth  
Kidney-L

### **Histo (10% Buffered Formalin): DROT x2, IMMS X2**

Lung  
Trachea  
Heart- R, L Atrium, R,L Ventricle.  
Aorta  
Pulmonary artery  
tongue  
Esophagus  
Stomach

Duodenum  
Jejunum  
Ileum  
Colon  
Pancreas  
Spleen  
Liver  
Brain  
Eyes  
Kidney-L  
ureter  
Urinary bladder  
Blubber  
Bone marrow  
Spinal cord  
Adrenal  
Skin  
Muscle  
Ovary  
Uterus  
Vagina  
Cervix  
Mammary gland  
Lymph nodes- suprascapula, Hilar, colonic, inguinal, mesenteric, gastric  
Pituitary

**Hydrocarbon: X2**

Blood- Aorta and heart  
Bile  
Urine  
Liver  
Kidney  
Muscle  
Lung  
Intestine  
Blubber

**Viral: Dr. Romero**

Lung  
BH swab  
Feces  
Brain- Cerebrum, cerebellum  
Spinal cord  
Spleen  
Liver  
Kidney

**Cultures- Memorial hospital Gulfport, Ms ( Bacterial and Fungal):** Left lung swab, Swab of dura mater in brain.

**PHOTOS/VIDEO:** Yes/No

**ASSOCIATED DATA SHEETS:** Level A Data Form, Delphinid Specimen record, NOAA Photo Log, NOAA Chain of custody record.