

GROSS NECROPSY REPORT

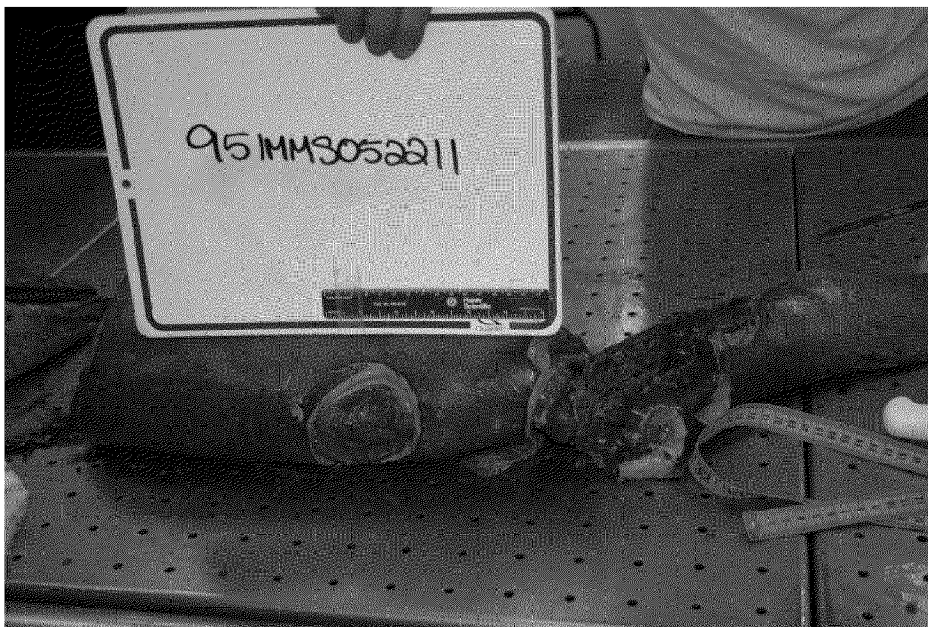
SPECIES *Tt* FIELD NUMBER 95IMMS052211 DATE July 20, 2011
 LOCATION Pascagoula, MS LAT/LONG 30.34183/-88.50669
 SEX M TL 108 cm (partial carcass) COND 4 WEIGHT N/E

95IMMS052211 *Tt*GROSS NECROPSY

The truncated remains of a perinatal 108 cm total length, male *Tursiops truncatus* is presented dead July 20, 2011 in very poor post mortem (code 4) and moderate body condition. The animal is moderately fleshed. Extending from the level of the umbilicus dorsally, there is extensive traumatic amputation and evisceration of the caudal abdomen, hypaxial skeletal musculature and ventrolateral torso to the caudal third level of the peduncle. The cranial margins of the defect are crenated to curvilinear and abruptly angulated and within the lumbar region, the defect extends across to the left lateral aspect of the torso. Overlying the dorsolateral aspect of left thoracic cavity, ribs 10-14, there is an 8x4-6 cm longitudinal defect with serrated sloping margins ventrally and more an abrupt, vertical and occasionally undermining linear border dorsally. Within the right dorsolateral thoracic wall, approximately 10 cm cranial to the insertion of the dorsal fin and involving the entire melon, there are 10 to 15 cm diameter ulcer with sloping to vertically oriented margins which extend deep into the hypaxial skeletal musculature and periosteum, respectively. The ductus arteriosus is patent and the lungs are diffusely red brown and representative portions sink on immersion in formalin. There is generalized pallor of the skeletal musculature. There are no other apparent gross internal or external lesions.

CONCLUSIONS

The abdominal defect is provocative and the scalloped margins along the distal limit of the intact skin is suggestive of possible attack and predation; there was red brown discoloration and expansion of fascial planes by gelatinous fluid suggestive of ante, rather than post mortem trauma. There were no apparent lesions within the remaining tissues, which may have predisposed this animal to injury and the incident was likely spontaneous. The lack of hemorrhage along the border of the defect may be attributed to agonal shock or (post mortem) scavenging and the muscle pallor is most likely due to decomposition; however, hemorrhagic shock may also be a consideration. The dorsal fin and fetal folds could not be evaluated in this case and although there were no apparent vibrissae, rostral follicles were noted. The presence of teeth as well as the patency of the foramen ovale and umbilicus could not be assessed. The gastrointestinal tract was avulsed and the cranial fontanelles are disrupted.



Scavenger/Predation

GROSS FINDINGS

- 1). Carcass, caudal abdomen and ventrolateral peduncle: Amputation and evisceration, marked, focally extensive
- 2). Skin, thoracic wall, left and right, dorsolateral and melon: Presumptive bite wounds, marked, multifocally extensive

TISSUE DISPOSITION

Teeth and skin for life history
Photographs
Radiographs of head
Lung, histopathology
Lung, virology
Carcass archived frozen