



## Stranding cases in January

Date	January 1
Species	Chinese white dolphin
Sex	Female
Length (cm)	171
Estimated Age	Calf
Location	Peaked Hill, Lantau Island
Stranding/ Carcass Status	Late code 3 - close to severely decomposed
Initial Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete disassociation of its vertebrae from the skull at about 4.83cm</li><li>• Compound fractures were found in its skull and right flipper</li><li>• Bruising of the musculature external of the animal's skull, vertebrae and right radius</li><li>• Lung disease may have contributed to the animal being less able to navigate away from the source of trauma</li></ul>
Cause of Death	Trauma with multiple luxations of the vertebrae
Photo	

Date	January 16
Species	Chinese white dolphin
Sex	Male
Length (cm)	234
Estimated Age	Adult
Location	January 16: Found injured around the waters off Lantau Island February 6: Recovered at the shallow waters in Lantau Shek Pik area and was transferred to Ocean Park rehabilitation facilities for detailed clinical examination and treatment
Stranding/ Carcass Status	Code 1 – live stranding
Initial Findings	<p>The health condition of "Hope" deteriorated on February 10. Veterinarian euthanised him to end his suffering.</p> <p>Findings from necropsy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were a few deep transversal wounds on its tail stock, extending posterior to its dorsal fin towards its tail area. The first wound was 5cm deep; second wound was 4cm deep, and the third wound was 10 cm deep. The fourth wound was 14cm deep and deemed very serious with three exposed and infected vertebrae</li> <li>• Blubber was very thin, showing that the dolphin was relatively weak and thin. His weight was approximately 50kg (or over 20%) less than what it should have been for his estimated age and length</li> <li>• Pulmonary edema and various inflammation</li> </ul>
Cause of Death	The health condition deteriorated, veterinarian conducted euthanasia to end his suffering
Photo	

Date	January 21
Species	Finless porpoise
Sex	Female
Length (cm)	117
Estimated Age	Juvenile
Location	Ham Tin Wan, Sai Kung
Stranding/ Carcass Status	Code 2 – fresh carcass
Initial Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many firm masses were found within the lungs</li><li>• Gastric intestinal tract was empty</li><li>• Enlarged adrenaline gland</li></ul>
Cause of Death	Suspect pneumonia or other pulmonary disease
Photo	 A photograph of a dead finless porpoise lying on a metal surface in a laboratory or clinic setting. The animal is dark grey and appears to be a juvenile. It is lying on its side, and its head is visible in the foreground. The background shows some laboratory equipment and a window.

Date	January 24
Species	Short-finned pilot whale
Sex	Female
Length (cm)	365
Estimated Age	Adult
Location	Cheung Sha Lan, Discovery Bay, Lantau Island
Stranding/ Carcass Status	Code 4 – severely decomposed
Initial Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First short-finned pilot whale stranding case in Hong Kong</li> <li>• A 12cm wound was found near the fluke tail, unsure whether its pre-mortem or post-mortem</li> <li>• It has a thin blubber layer of 1.5cm (mean blubber layer thickness of adult female short-finned pilot whale is 1.91cm), showing that the dolphin was relatively thin and weak</li> <li>• The team has sent its head, flippers and dorsal fin to Hong Kong Veterinary Imaging Centre for Computed Tomography (CT) scanning, and collected tissue samples for further testing</li> </ul>
Cause of Death	Undetermined
Photo	