

Alaska Veterinary Pathology Services

Kathy Burek Huntington, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVP
23834 The Clearing Drive / Eagle River, AK 99577
Work: (907) 242-2566 / Fax: (907) 696-3565
Avps.kbh@gmail.com

October 7, 2020

RE: Members of the stranding network / NMFS

As a co-principle investigator (Co-PI) on the MMHSRP permit, AVPS conducts necropsies and provides diagnostic support for the stranding network. We collaborate with NMFS and Alaska stranding network members and support multiple research projects using marine mammal samples from the various species.

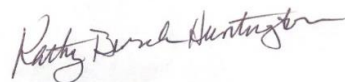
To improve efficiency, we request protocols for submitting carcasses and tissues to AVPS be followed.

- 1) When AVPS conducts a necropsy and/or receives tissues from the stranding network, we request the carcass and/or all collected samples are transferred to the MMHSRP permit under authority of AVPS.
 - a. NMFS oversees AVPS's Stranding Agreement, therefore, data reports will go to the Alaska Region Stranding Coordinator (Dr. Mandy Keogh), NMFS data coordinator (Dr. Kate Savage), and NMFS Contracting Officer's Representative (Barbara Mahoney).
 - b. Per NMFS request, results will be provided to the Stranding Network members by NMFS.
- 2) AVPS, working with NMFS, will submit samples collected during necropsies for analysis to NMFS approved labs, essential for diagnostic testing.
- 3) Stranding Network members with Stranding Agreements or researchers can work with the Alaska Stranding Coordinator (Dr. Keogh) to request a letter to use collected samples to support research projects.
- 4) AVPS will send excess marine mammal tissues to museums and other approved facilities for archiving.
- 5) Once the case is completed and there are no further known analyses, archives, or research projects of interest, all unused samples shall be discarded.
- 6) AVPS necropsy report will include a list, at the end of the reports, identifying the possible disposition of the samples.
 - a. If there are objections to the stated disposition of the samples, AVPS requests that NMFS be notified when the report is submitted.
 - b. If there are other requests for samples, it can be requested at the time of the report submission.

The following tables indicate NMFS recommendations for sampled tissues analyses and archival. Samples may also be provided to researchers not listed below if they have a NMFS letter of authorization to receive samples from stranded marine mammals.

LABORATORIES	CONTACTS	ANALYSES
Abbotsford Diagnostic Laboratory	Dr. Stephen Raverty	Vitamin A, trace minerals, PCR panels including mollicutes (bacteria)
Age Dynamics	Christina Lockyer	Ear plug aging
Athens Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory	Dr. Susan Sanchez	Aerobic and anaerobic cultures, viral cultures, various PCRs
UC-Davis Microbiology	Dr. Barbara Byrne	aerobic cultures, PCR
UC-Davis Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance	Dr. Tracey Goldstein	Serology, viral PCR
Tufts Veterinary College	Dr. Jon Runstadler	Influenza PCR and entry into national database
University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	Dr. Karen Terio	Fungal PCR
Wildlife Algal Toxin Research and Response Network (WARRN, west coast)	Dr. Kathi Lefebvre	Stomach content, feces, urine, +/- aqueous humor, pericardial fluid domoic acid (DA), Saxitoxin (SXT).
ARCHIVAL FACILITIES	SAMPLES	PURPOSES
Museum of the North	All	Dry archive; Frozen archive
Northwest Fisheries Science Center	Bile Blubber	Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
Southwest Fisheries Science Center	Skin	Genetics
RESEARCH PROJECTS	CONTACTS	TISSUE SAMPLES: purpose
Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Anna Bryan Lori Quakenbush	Stomachs: diets
Baylor University	Dr. Stephen Trumble	Blubber, baleen, ear plug: contaminants fatty acids and hormones over time in baleen whales
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute	Dr. Greg O'Corry Crowe	Skin: genetics
NIH Protozoal PCR analysis	Dr. Michael Grigg	Brain, muscle, heart, liver, and lung tissues: <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> , <i>Sarcocystis sp.</i> and <i>Neospora sp.</i> PCR
Southwest Fisheries Science Center	Dr. Sarah Mesnick Dr. Dara Orbach	Reproductive anatomy of cetaceans.
Tufts University	Dr. Jon Runstadler	Influenza PCR
University of Alaska – Anchorage	Dr. Eric Bortz	Influenza, morbillivirus and coronavirus PCR and sequencing

Sincerely,



Kathy Burek Huntington, DVM, MS, diplomate ACVP