CASE R-144

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Signalment and History

- A fresh bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) carcass was observed on the Tybee Island north river beach.
- Decomposition code 2/5, necropsy performed in the field.
Gross Findings

• Severe emaciation (1/5)

Moderate to severe pulmonary edema
• Milky fluid in airways
Intrahistiocytic microorganisms

- *Histoplasma capsulatum*
- Microsporidia
- *Toxoplasma gondii*
- *Sarcocystis sp.*
- *Cryptococcus neoformans*
- *Leishmania sp.*
- *Neospora caninum*
- *Sporothrix schenckii*
Morphologic diagnosis

• Pneumonia, granulomatous and necrotizing, multifocal to coalescing, severe with numerous intrahistiocytic yeast, etiology consistent with *Histoplasma capsulatum*. 
Comments

• Histoplasmosis is a common infection in the southeastern United States

• Described in a large range of species including captive bottlenose dolphins (Jensen et al. 1998, Venn-Watson et al. 2012)

• Bottlenose dolphins in South Georgia have the highest levels of persistent organic pollutants (PCBs) reported in any marine mammal (Balmert et al. 2011)
Thanks!!!!

Questions ?????