

## 2014- Thierry Work USGS Necropsy Report

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### 2014- Necropsy Report of an Excessively Buoyant Green Turtle by Thierry Work USGS.

**From:** Thierry Work <thierry\_work@usgs.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, June 27, 2014 10:58 PM

**To:** honu world <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>; Evert Morris <eamorris08@centurytel.net>; George Balazs - NOAA Federal <george.balazs@noaa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: turtle

Hi folks-

Findings in the turtle: Massive gas distention left side large intestine distended with feces. Intussusception of small intestine into large intestine (ca. 10 cm) with apex necrotic and fishing line attached. Torsion of large intestine with ischemic necrosis of ca. 3 ft of duodenal wall with attendant rupture, release of ingesta into coelomic cavity, and coelomitis. Large amounts of squid in crop and mineral oil in stomach.

Progression of events: Fishing line ingestion-> intussusception and necrosis->blockage-> fermentation of feces and gas accumulation->floating->NMFS contacted and turtle retrieved.

It is likely that the mass of the distended large intestine shifted when animal was manipulated in captivity (which would explain transient shifting of buoyancy) leading to twisting and torsion of mesentery with subsequent ischemic necrosis of jejunum, rupture of wall, release of ingesta and death.

Perhaps we need to revisit how we manage cases that are floaters and do not pass feces. The chronicity of the intussusception indicates nothing could have been done, so it would have probably been better in retrospect to euthanize animal sooner than later, particularly when nothing was passing after mineral oil and feeding.

Best.

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