

## ANALYSIS OF DEATH CAUSES OF THE CAPTIVE BLACK SEA DOLPHINS (*TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS PONTICUS*)

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**Summary.** Since 1994 Black Sea dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) have been bred at the dolphinarium of the Lithuanian Sea Museum, Klaipėda and used for show, education and dolphin therapy. Ten dolphins died since the dolphinarium has been established. The aim of the present study was to perform necropsy, histopathological and microbiological examination in order to find the causes of dolphin death. Chronic inflammation of respiratory organs was registered in 12.5 % and inflammation of stomach and intestines was identified in 8.3 % of cases. Acute inflammation of respiratory organs, candidiasis and trauma were found in 4.2 % of cases, respectively. There were 18.2 % of stillbirth cases of dolphin offspring.

**Keywords:** necropsy, pathology, dolphins.