

### **Jelly Baby Boom at The Deep!**

The Deep reports a recent spate of jelly baby births in its maternity unit, behind the scenes. The “blooms” are from 5 different species including a new one to The Deep, – Sea Nettles, so-called because of their sting!

The new additions are doing well under the watchful eye of The Deep’s jellyfish expert, Tom Rowe. He explains, “The Sea Nettles use their sting to catch their prey and as their tentacles can grow up to 4metres long, they are effective hunters. These jellies even eat other jellyfish and so are *jellyvores* .”

Whilst their sting is not fatal to humans, Tom takes the precaution of wearing protective gloves. As the babies grow up, their sting becomes more powerful.

#### **Note to editors**

In the wild, Sea Nettles live in cold waters including the North Pacific The Deep is part of a jelly consortium, a research group chaired by The Deep. The Deep is so successful at culturing jellyfish, it supplies to many other aquariums. The Sea Nettles will be on display in the aquarium when they are more developed, later in the year.

#### Jellyfish Facts

- Jellyfish are 95% water.
- Jellyfish have no heart, brain, gills or blood.
- The sting cells of jellyfish tentacles are called “nematocysts”. They also have a poison sac and a harpoon to inject with.
- Box jellyfish can be as small as a peanut but can kill a human!
- Jellyfish are the staple food of Leatherback turtles.

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