Media Release

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Jellyfish swarm around Police Point and Hideaway Bay

Huon can confirm our staff have recently been working to successfully manage a jellyfish swarm in and around our farms at Police Point and Hideaway Bay.

A dense swarm of Moon Jellyfish (Aurelia species) required the relocation of a number of pens over the weekend/past few days. Slowly moving pens through the water allows the jellyfish to move through the water and push out through the mesh.

There has been fish losses but well within normal range, largely due to the mammoth effort from so many people, from across all areas of the company. This is just another of the normal environmental challenges the salmon industry faces, albeit not one we experience regularly. We are no different than land based farmers who deal with plagues of mice and insects through to floods and drought conditions.

The jellyfish grow extremely fast, hence the need to act quickly to protect the fish and our staff. The direct cause of salmon mortalities is unknown, but may be caused by suffocation or toxicity as a result of coming in direct contact with the jellyfish.

Moon Jellyfish can range from 5-50cm in size and have previously caused salmon mortalities here (they appear on average every 5-7 years), with a similar species causing mortalities overseas.

The cause of this, and previous, swarms is not known but can follow periods of rough weather, with sea currents sweeping the jellyfish into sheltered bays and washing them up on beaches.

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