



Photo Tinka Murk

Accident

Sharks and rays have an extra sense, the ampullae of Lorenzini, that lets them 'feel' electromagnetic fields. In the ElasmPower project, PhD candidate Annemiek Hermans studies how these creatures perceive the electric cables that connect the increasing number of offshore wind farms to the land. Do the cables affect how they hunt or navigate, and is their reproduction influenced? In a lab experiment with ray eggs, an interesting 'accident' happened when two baby rays were born earlier than expected. The reproduction of rays is often a source of surprises. Last year, the Dolfinarium reported a case of parthenogenesis, a form of asexual reproduction, in a whiptail stingray. ME