

# Lifecycles of oviparous Elasmobranchs

South African Elasmobranch Monitoring

The empty eggcases are washed ashore and can be picked up on the beach.

Once all the egg yolk has been absorbed, a miniature version of the adult shark hatches through a slit on the upper side of the eggcase.

Once all the egg yolk has been absorbed, a miniature version of the adult skate hatches through a slit on the upper side of the eggcase.

The young skate will continue to develop.

When a female has reached maturity, she can lay eggcases herself and the cycle starts again.

The embryo inside the eggcase feeds on highly nutritious yolk while sea-water provides oxygen.

When a female has reached maturity, she can lay eggcases herself and the cycle starts again.

Shark eggs are laid in pairs and have tendrils, which secure them to substrates like seafans, seaweed or rocks.

Skates deposit their eggs onto the seabed. Fine, hair-like fibres on the capsule's surface help to anchor it to the ground.