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Maugean skate vulnerable to Macquarie Harbour environmental conditions

Environmental conditions in Macquarie Harbour have declined over the past decade and [new research from IMAS has highlighted the vulnerability of endangered Maugean skate](#) to the changed conditions in what

"Our data suggest there may have been a recent decline in juvenile recruitment," Associate Professor Lyle said.

"Skate lay their eggs on the substrate and, during the seven months that it takes complete development, are exposed to environmental conditions that will influence development and even survival.

"In addition, during the study there were several unexpected mortalities amongst the tracked individuals.

"Many of the deaths coincided with periods of marked environmental variability, raising the possibility they may have been related to stress caused by environmental factors.

"Our study contributes to the growing body of knowledge about the Maugean skate, shedding light on some of the unique adaptations that have allowed this remarkable creature to survive in such a challenging habitat.

"It also highlights uncertainties about the future conservation status of a species that is already listed as endangered