

FADs in the Pacific Islands

FADs: Fish aggregating devices

WHAT ARE FADs AND WHO USES THEM?

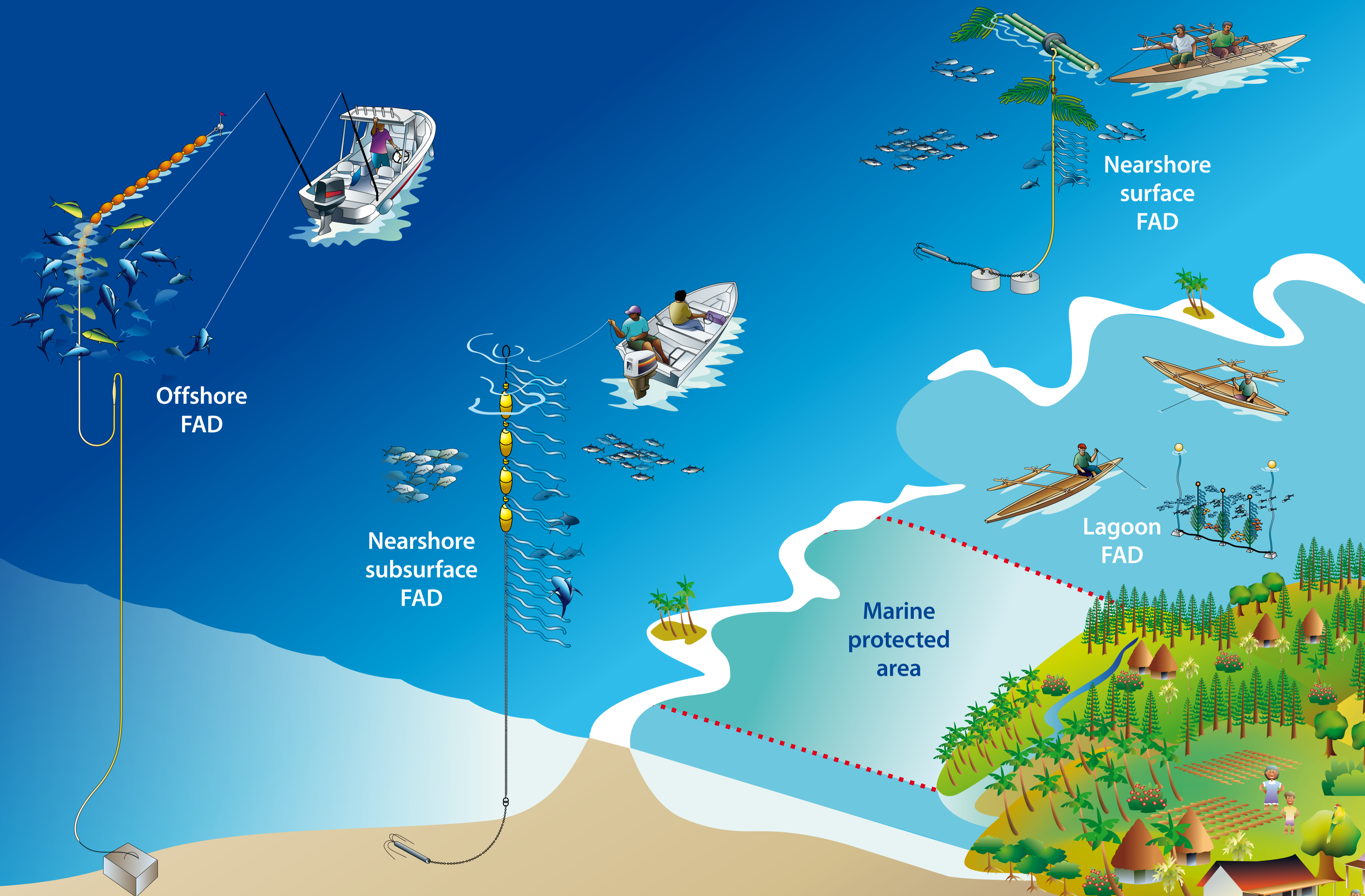
Fish aggregating devices (FADs) are anchored objects that are put in the ocean to attract fish like tuna, wahoo, mahi-mahi, rainbow-runners and big-eye scads. In the Pacific Islands, several types of anchored FADs are used: offshore, nearshore (surface or sub-surface) and lagoon FADs. FADs are set in the ocean by the fisheries authorities for the benefits of communities, and artisanal or recreational fishers.

ADVANTAGES OF FADs

- Increased food security for communities by improving access to tuna and other fish
- Increased vessel efficiency through better catch rates and reduced cost of fishing
- Transfer of fishing effort from the reef to the ocean – still to be scientifically proven
- Climate change adaptation because communities using FADs maintain their fish supply while coral reef ecosystems are degraded by global warming – still to be scientifically proven
- Sport fishing tourism development by providing fishing spots to recreational fishers
- Improved safety at sea through defined fishing zones around FADs

ISSUES WITH FADs

- Short lifespans sometimes due to vandalism but also to cyclones
- Expensive devices to replace and maintain
- Insufficient human and financial resources to extend FAD programmes
- FAD deployment is a dangerous activity and requires good boats and skilled crew
- Training on FAD fishing methods and small boat safety necessary for FAD users
- User conflicts caused by overcrowding of fishers and not enough FADs in an area



RESPECT FADs and THE OTHER FISHERS AROUND THEM and NEVER VISIT A FAD WITHOUT SAFETY EQUIPMENT ONBOARD YOUR BOAT