

Fish smart. Set FADs: a series of awareness and training videos

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How do you deal with technical demonstrations that show 1250-meter ropes in 1000-meter depths through a virtual screen? This time, our familiar friend “Zoom” doesn’t have a magic button to help our experts make remote trainings feel real. This is where training videos are helpful.

Training videos as pre-learning tools

In December 2020 and April 2021, following requests from fisheries authorities in Cook Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Pacific Community (SPC) set up online workshops to build capacity on artisanal fish aggregating devices (FADs). The workshops included theoretical explanations, such as how to calculate appropriate rope lengths, or how to choose the best locations to deploy FADs.

Some of the main challenges of these remote workshops were the training sessions on practical topics. They required the demonstration of precise manipulations and specific materials. To address these challenges, prior to the workshops, SPC produced a series of awareness and training videos explaining how to fabricate and deploy artisanal FADs. The general idea was to send the films before the workshop and to use them as pre-learning tools, or, to refer to particular scenes in the video during the workshop, to further highlight a topic of interest.

Scripting first

The first task was to script the text. Before planning the filming, the team gathered to decide which information should be highlighted in the videos, keeping in mind the targeted audiences: fisheries officers and fisheries associations in the Pacific Islands region. It was also important to sequence the text into several chapters, with each one corresponding to one short video alongside identified key messages and a list of needed illustrations. The filming work plan was done in collaboration with the New Caledonian fisheries authorities, and included two main parts:

- Filming at SPC to show how to rig the materials: surface marker, floatation system, main mooring line, and anchor system.
- Filming at sea, onboard the government vessel, RV *Amborella*, to demonstrate how to connect the different parts of the FAD and how to deploy the FAD.



Access to the videos –The series “Fish smart. Set FADs” is now available

The series of seven videos is available from the YouTube playlist:



<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCq-WnF3Hdrh8-2b5e40cetbwBaUUrGCY>

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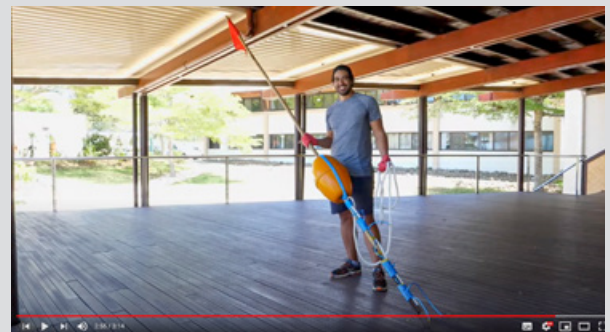
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Four tips on how to fabricate artisanal FADs

Here is a glimpse of what is on the videos about each of the four parts of a FAD:

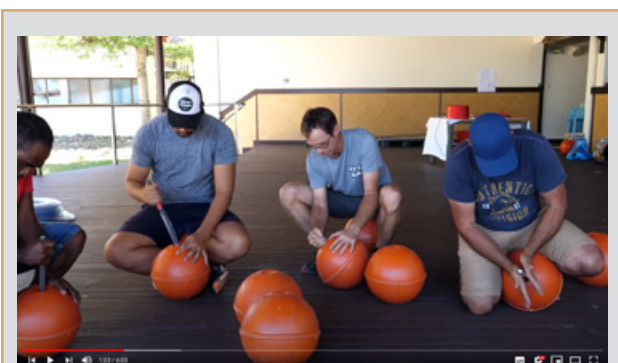
Surface marker

1 x 	ABS Float with C/ Hole	1 x 	Nylon rope 3 m length x 16 mm dia
1 x 	PVC Pipe 2 m length x 24 mm dia	1 x 	Insulation tape or cable ties
1 x 	Bamboo	4 x 	250 mm length
1 x 	Flag 400 mm length x 300 mm height	1 x 	Binding rope Nylon preferred, 4 m length x 4 mm dia
1 x 	Weight to counter-balance flag pole rebar or weight: 560 mm length x 25 mm dia, 2.5 kg weight		



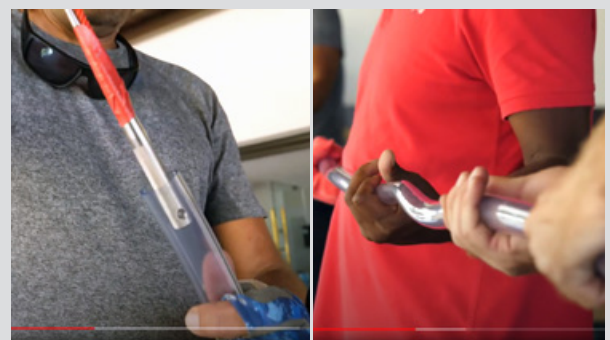
Surface markers

To rig a surface marker, you need materials such as a weight, several pieces of rebar to counter-balance the flag pole, whipping twine or rope, strong adhesive tape or cable ties, a flag pole, 3 m of attachment rope, and a buoy. Note that the higher the pole is out of the water, the heavier the counter-weight needs to be.



Flotation system

Before rigging the flotation system, make sure that the float's centre holes are smooth.



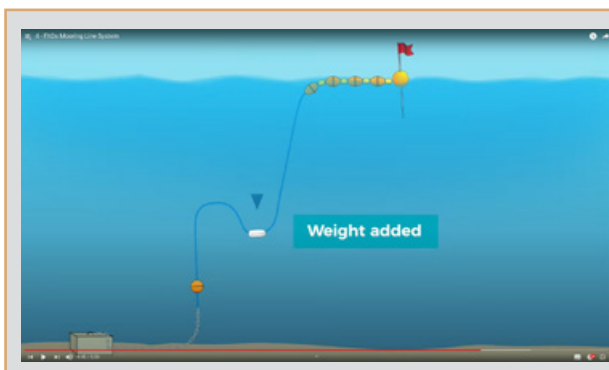
Using a messenger cord fixed to a lead or a splicer, pass the main mooring through a 12-m length of plastic hose sheath as a protection against float chaffing.



Slide the floats along the part of the mooring line covered with the plastic hose sheath.



Twist 4-m ropes between each float to keep them well separated and avoid excessive chaffing.



Main mooring line system

FAD moorings commonly consist of floating and sinking ropes. What if you don't have access to sinking ropes and only use floating ropes? There is a lot of excess rope as the length of the mooring line is 1.25 times the depth. With current or wind, no problem, there is tension on the line and the rope remains underwater.

But, in calm weather, the excess rope will end up floating at the surface. So, you will need to add weight to the floating section of the rope to make it sink! The video shows you how.



Anchor system

What do you need to rig an anchor system?

A cement block reinforced with rebar with a weight of four to six times the total floatation system buoyancy; a 25-kg Danforth anchor, 5–15 m of galvanised chain, shackles, whipping twine and cable ties.



Five tips to produce training videos

1. If you wish to produce a training video: don't! First, think about the overall training content and your target audience(s). Then, decide if the video is the appropriate tool. Be aware that videos are not necessarily the easiest way to build capacity. Some topics would be better encapsulated into a manual than in a video. For other topics, the videos can be a nice complementary tool.
2. Do not produce one video: make several. To keep the attention of your audience, you will have to make the videos short. Sometimes, it is better to produce a series of five 6-minute-videos, than to produce one 30-minute video.
3. Scripting is one of the very first steps.
4. Use visual recap for key take-away messages.
5. Combine real footage and illustrations.

Acknowledgements

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All pictures and illustrations in this article:
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