

INTRODUCTION

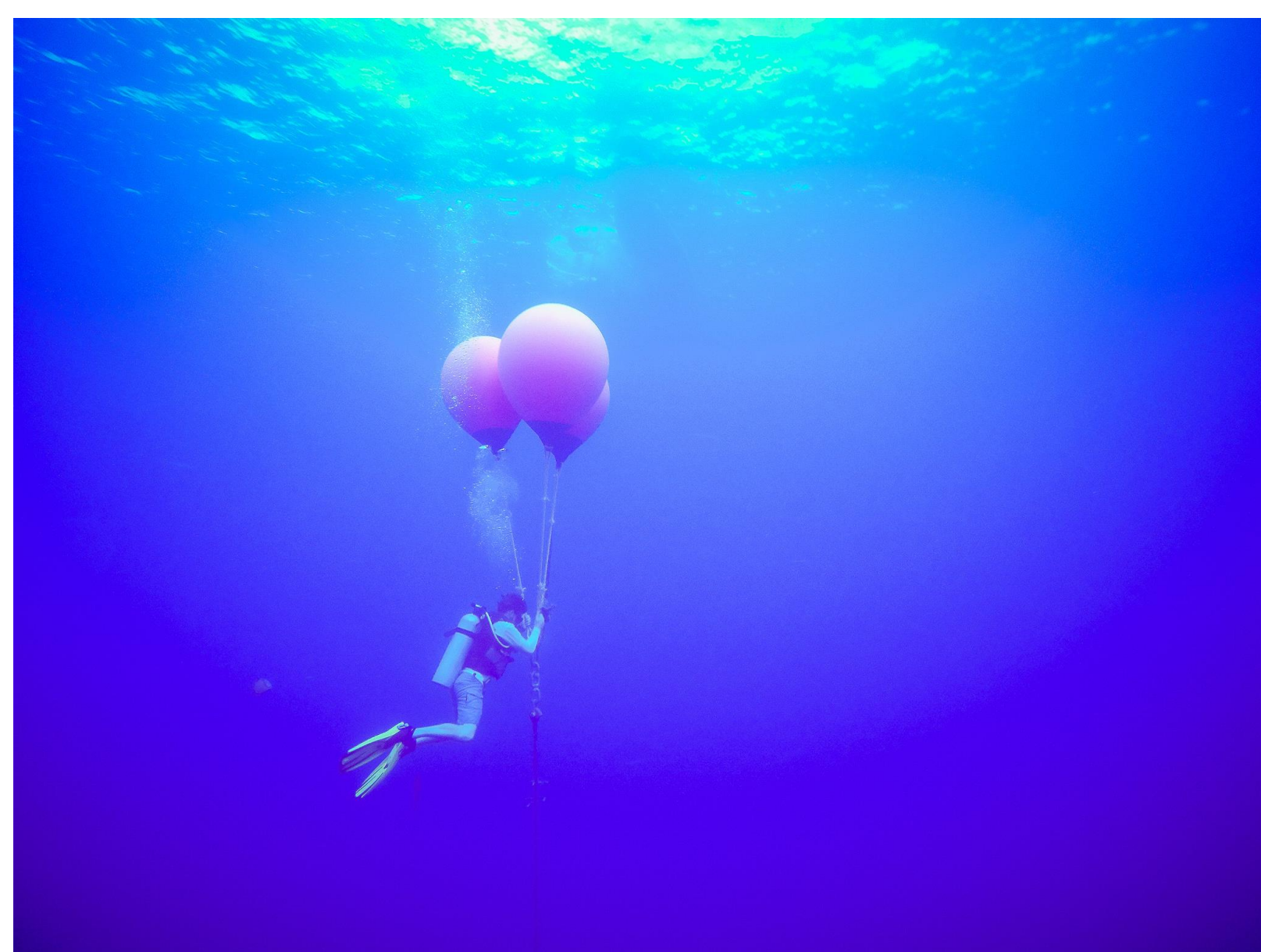
A FAD is a fish aggregation device and can be natural or man-made. Examples of natural are seaweed and logs, and man-made are buoys and trash. FADs are used across the globe, for both fishing and conservation purposes.

Fish are attracted to FADs because...

1. Meeting point hypothesis
 - Socialize and group together
2. Indicator log hypothesis
 - Nutrients and shelter

This study involved the deployment of six FADs in a pelagic (i.e. open-ocean environment,) as well as the documentation of the colonization and succession of pelagic fish such as cobia, marlin, mahi mahi, tuna and wahoo.

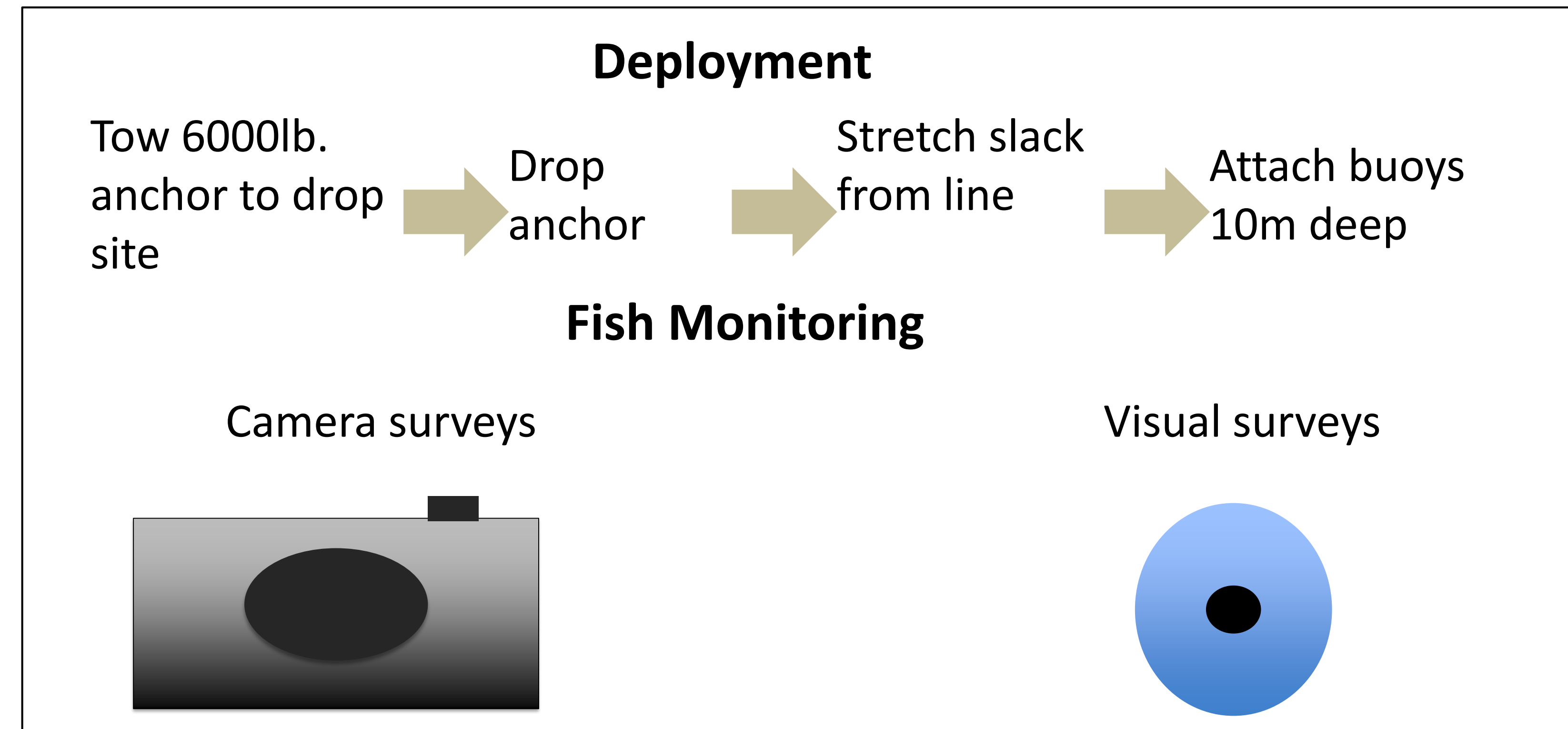
These FADs were the first to be deployed for research purposes only. Because they are sub-surface, they are not accessible to local fishermen; this ensures the species diversity and abundance observed are an accurate representation of the population and are not skewed by captures of individuals.



LITERATURE CITED

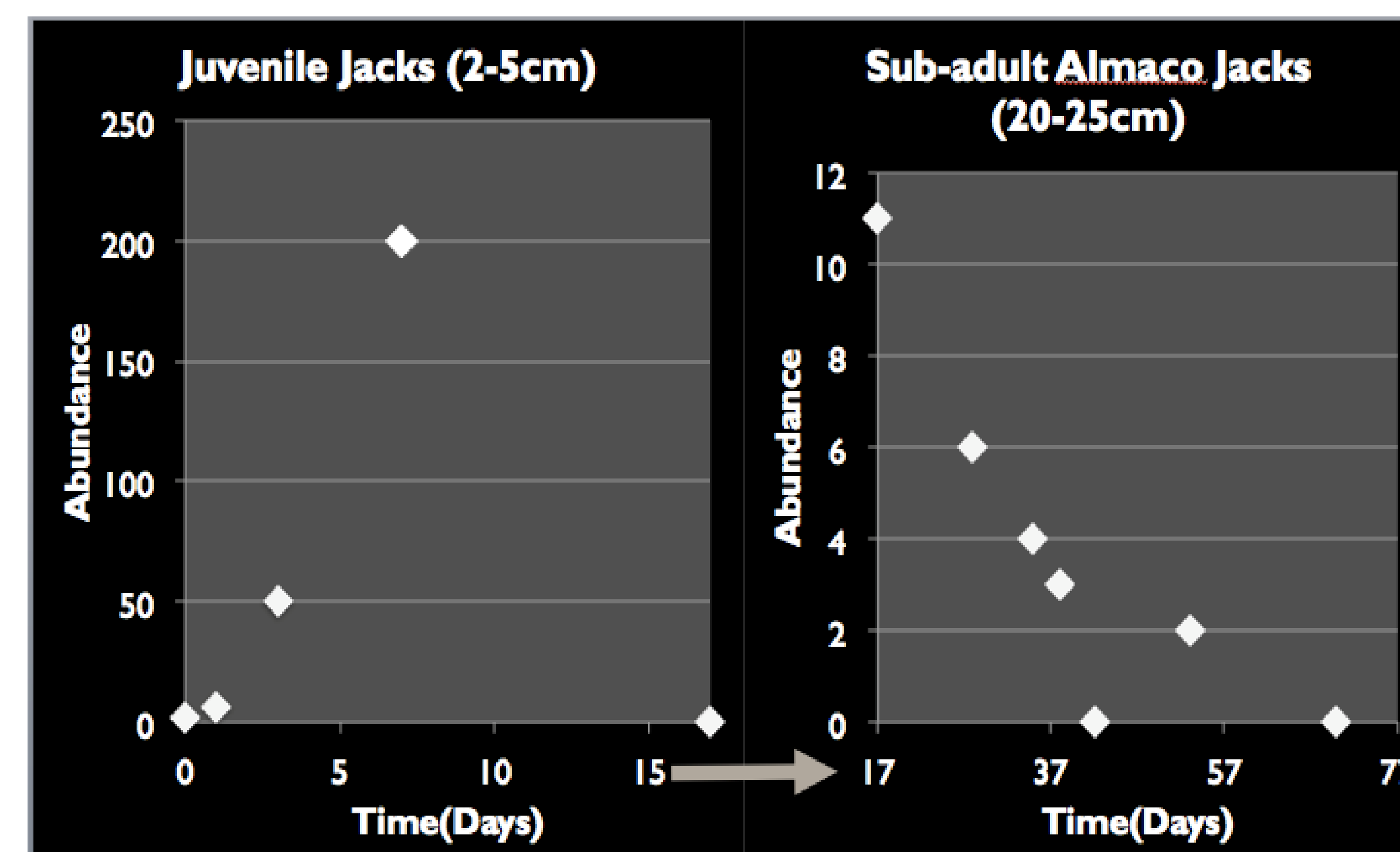
Albert JA, Beare D, Schwarz A-M, Albert S, Warren R, et al. (2014) The Contribution of Nearshore Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) to Food Security and Livelihoods in Solomon Islands. PLoS ONE 9(12):
 J. C. Gaertner, M. Taquet, L. Dagorn, B. Mérigot, R. Aumeeruddy, G. Sancho, D. Itano, et al. (2008) Visual Censuses Around Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs): A New Approach For assessing the diversity of fish in open-ocean waters. MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRESS SERIES Vol. 366: 175–186, 2008.
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METHODS

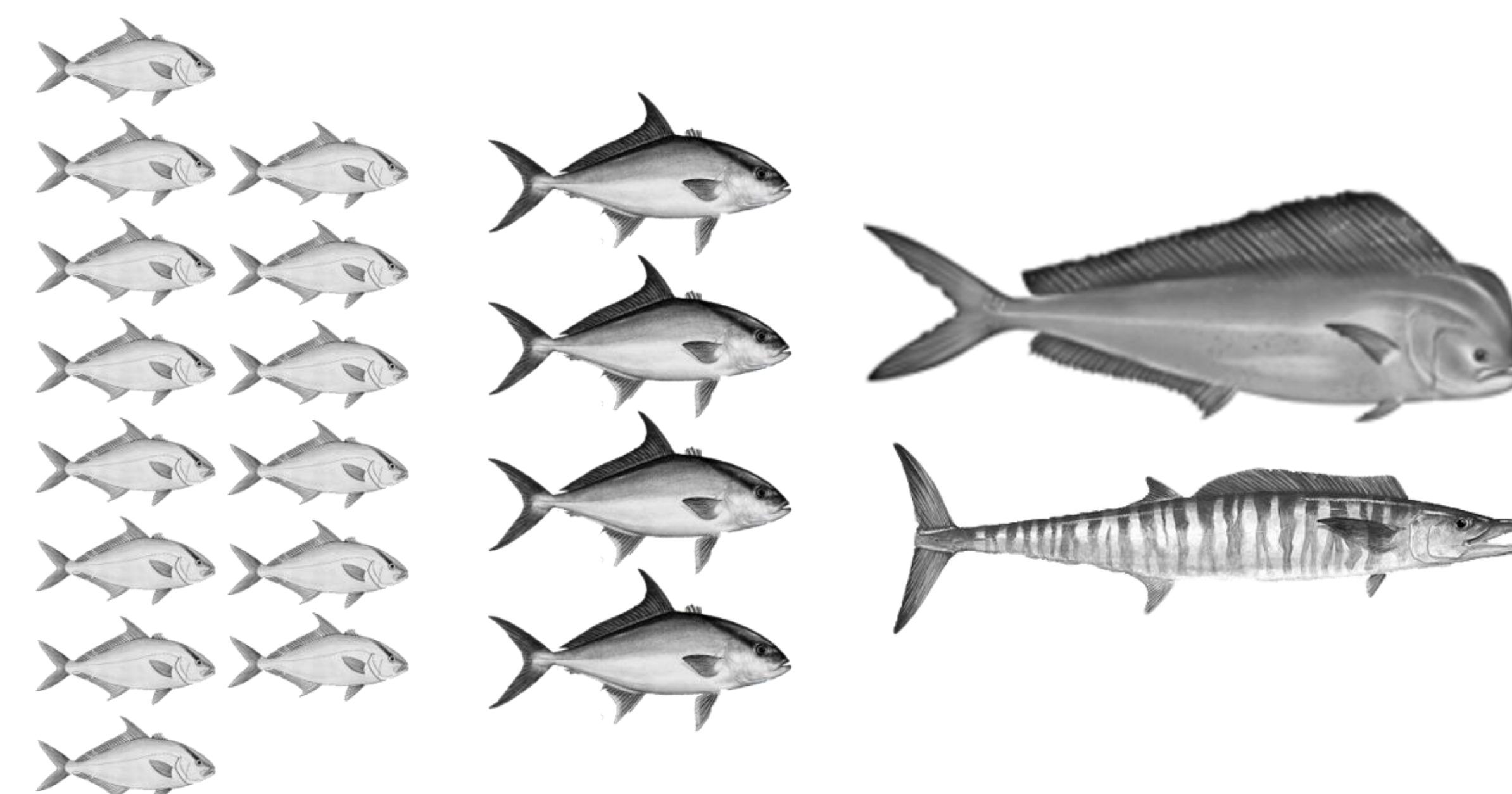


RESULTS

- Species recorded on surveys are juvenile jacks and almaco jacks
- Surveys show early succession is occurring

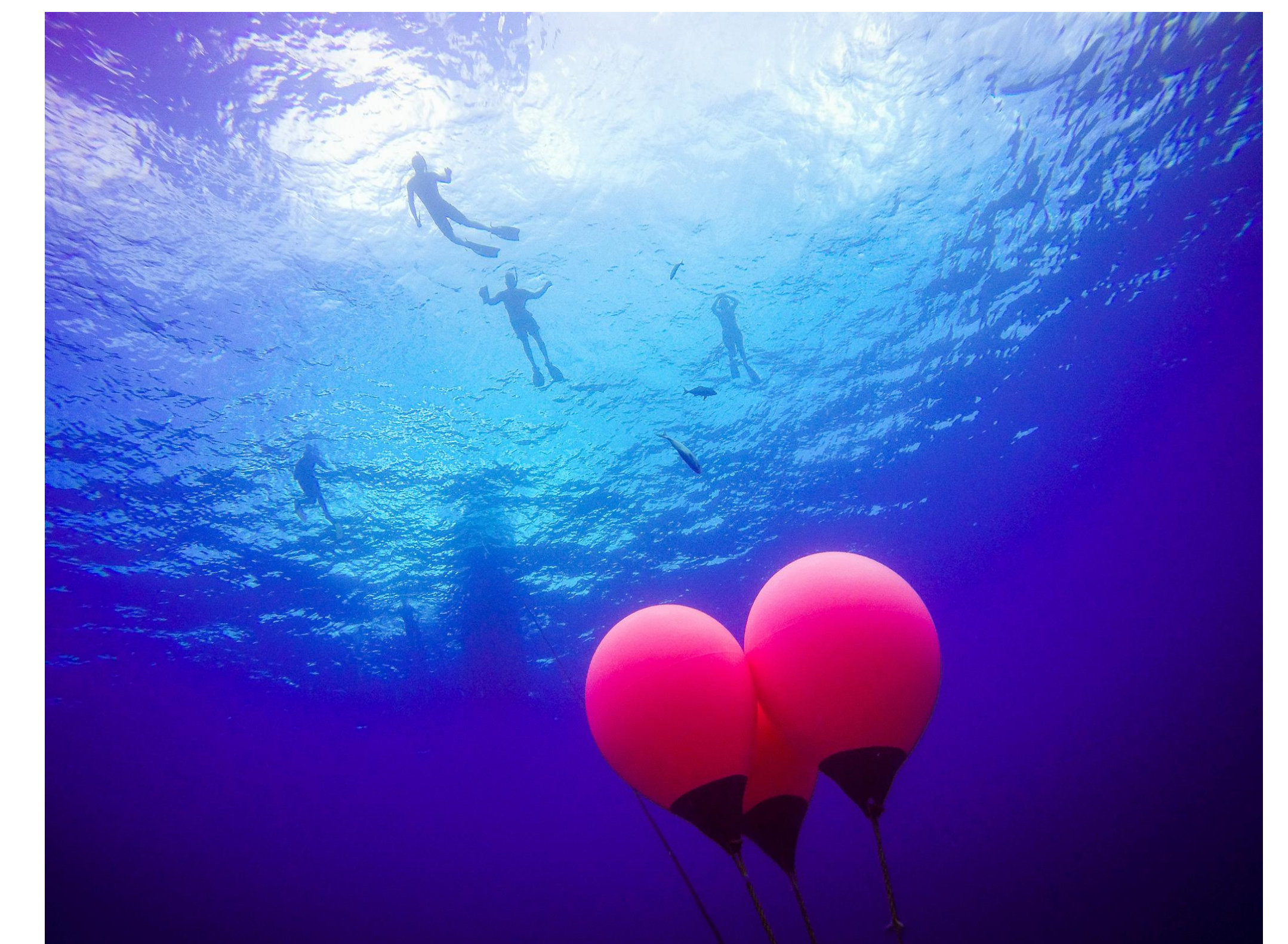


- Opportunistic observation show that large predators such as mahi mahi and wahoo are also visiting the FADs
- This shows an increase in biomass and size of fish over time

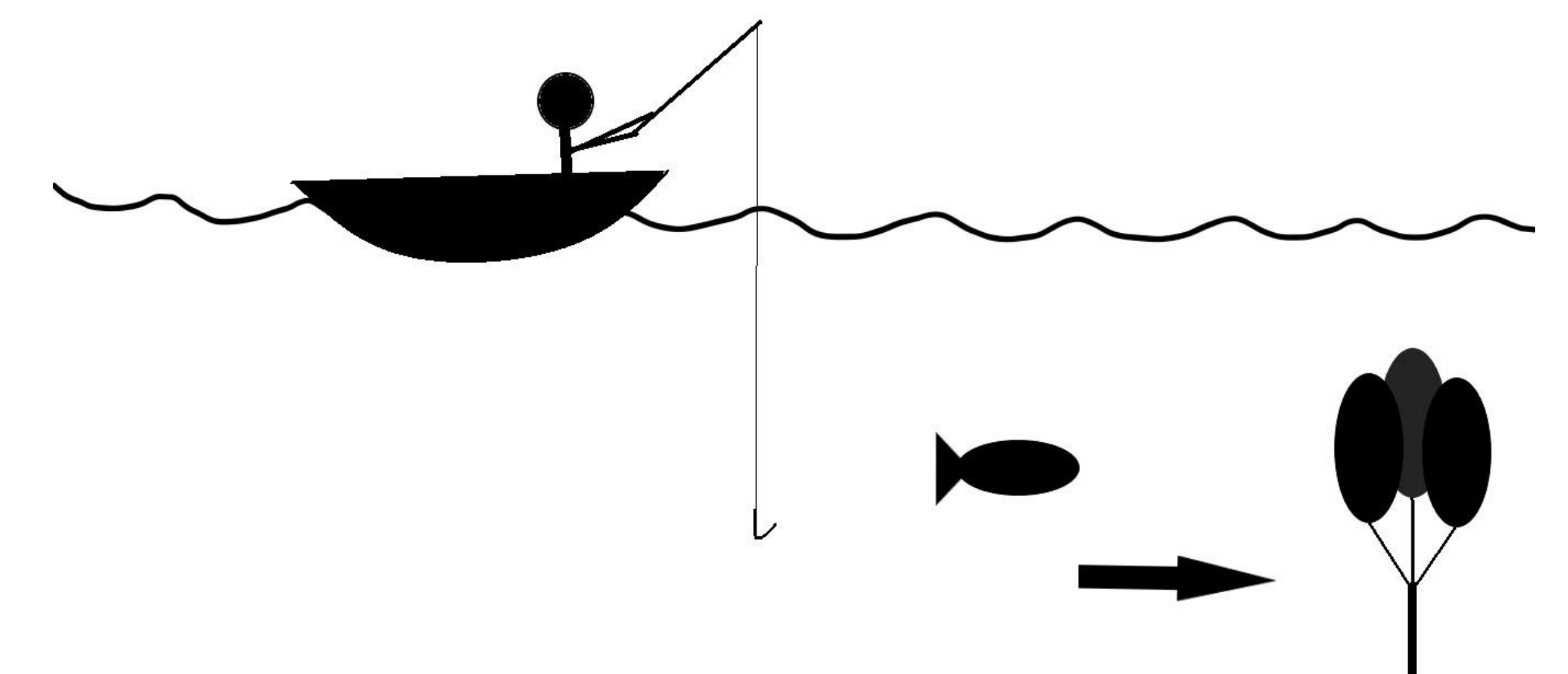


DISCUSSION

- Succession of pelagic fish is already evident
- The project has a five-year life span. Next steps include:
 - Maintenance
 - Continued monitoring of colonization and succession
 - Develop potential as conservation tool



- FADs can be used for conservation in different ways:
 - As monitoring sites for pelagic species
 - As Fish Enhancing Devices (FEDs). A FED is a FAD that attracts fish from heavily fished areas to protected areas where they can mature and reproduce.



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