

The Secret Lives of Fish

How scientists collect information about fish

2. BRUVs

What is this?

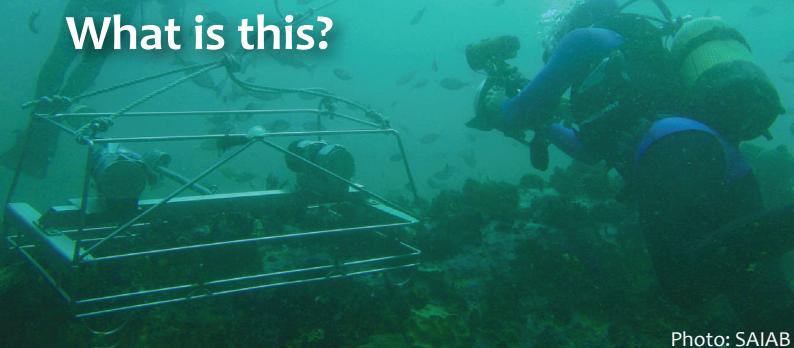
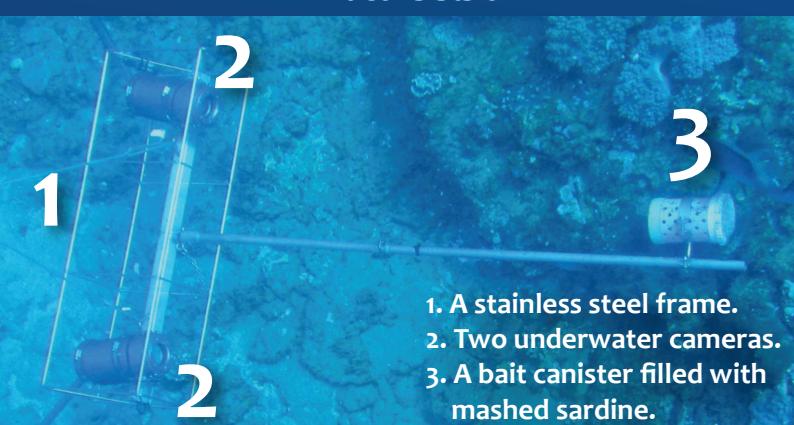


Photo: SAIAB

A Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) is a new method of studying offshore reef fish. It consists of:



How does it work?

The BRUV system is LOWERED TO THE SEAFLOOR on a rope attached to a surface marker-buoy.

The cameras record all the fish attracted to the smell coming from the BAIT CANISTER.

After one hour, the system is lifted back to the boat and the video footage is analysed.



How do scientists use it?

BRUVs are used to collect information on FISH ABUNDANCE, BIOMASS, DIVERSITY and even FISH BEHAVIOUR.

South African scientists are using this technology to IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING of fish populations especially in deep water beyond safe diving depths.

How do BRUVs

help us to understand MPAs?

ORI scientists have used a BRUV system in the Pondoland MPA to COMPARE FISH POPULATIONS in fished and no-take protected areas.



FISHED AREA

Mzamba reef
21m

NO-TAKE AREA

Mtentu reef
20m

This research has shown that MORE AND BIGGER FISH are found in the no-take zone of the MPA.

This helps to prove that MPAs EFFECTIVELY CONSERVE our fish populations.



SAIAB

National Research Foundation

South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity



Helping people to care for our ocean