



HELDER SILVA

Short Biographical Note

Helder Marques da Silva was born in Lisbon on September 5th, 1957.

In 1979 he completes the Bachelor in biology from Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, concluding in 1981 the degree of Licenciatura, branch of scientific specialization, from the same University.

In September 1982 he starts his career as a research intern at the University of the Azores-Department of Oceanography and Fisheries.

In 1984-85 he undertakes a postgraduate course in Fisheries Biology from the University of Bergen – Norway.

Between 1989 and 1993 he undertakes a PhD joint program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the Woods Hole Laboratory (NMFS-NOAA), on dynamics of fish populations, with the thesis «Population Dynamics of Spiny Dogfish, *Squalus acanthias*, in the NW Atlantic».

In 1994 he was granted the degree of Doctor in biology in Animal Ecology from the University of the Azores.

For some years he was responsible for the Fisheries Biology section of the Department (1992-1996). Over these years he has worked with elasmobranchs, fish stock assessment and biology of various demersal fish species in the Azores and initiates a series of demersal cruise surveys, with the Research Vessel 'Arquipélago', which today represent the basis of the monitoring of these fish species in the Azores.

He participated in several scientific cruise surveys in the North Sea, Eastern US Coast and in the Azores.

He has coordinated various Bachelor, Master and Doctoral theses at the University of the Azores and the University of Algarve.

He participated in numerous scientific meetings and chaired the study group on Elasmobranch Fish of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES; 1995 and 1996), and the Tropical Tunas Committee of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) during the years 1997-1999.

Helder Silva was the Director of Fisheries of the Regional Government of the Azores between 1996 and 2000. During this period he organized several editions of the Fisheries Week scientific meeting and started the ExpoPescas. He also launched the Observer Program for the Fisheries of the Azores (POPA).

Between 2000 and 2004 he was the Secretary for the Environment of the Azores Government. Over this period he led the process of nomination of the Vineyard Landscape of the Pico Island as World Heritage which was chosen at a national level in January 2002, accepted at the annual meeting of the 2003 UNESCO World Heritage Committee, held at its headquarters in Paris, where he participated as President of the Portuguese delegation and that would be adopted at the annual meeting of that Committee in Suzhou, China, in July 2004, where he also participated.

In 2005 he starts parliamentary duties as Regional Deputy in the Regional Parliament of the Azores. Between October 2008 and November 2010 he was elected President of the parliamentary group of the Socialist Party.

Helder Silva is, since 2003, a Senior Scientist (Investigador Principal) of the University of the Azores, assuming, since December 2011, the position of Director of the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries.

In 2014 he was elected President of the national institute IMAR – Institute of Marine Research.