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Obituary

PASCAL DIVANACH

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Obituary: Pascal Divanach (1949-2021)

It is with great sadness that we announce that Dr. Pascal Divanach passed away on 14 May, 2021 after a long battle with a terminal illness.

Dr. Pascal Divanach began his career in Greece in 1987 at the Institute of Marine Biology Crete (IMBC) following many years of contribution to research in aquaculture in his homeland, France. As such, he associated his name with the development of aquaculture not only in Greece, but throughout the Mediterranean region. His contribution to the industrialization of the production process of larval rearing of European seabass and gilthead seabream was of great importance, since the technologies developed and optimised at the IMBC under his guidance were adopted by commercial marine fish farming. He led the IMBC to international recognition in the area of aquaculture, and was directly involved in the expansion of the Institute, seeking and attracting funding from national and European resources, and coordinating and directing large and complex research projects.

Dr. Divanach was the head of the Department of Aquaculture of IMBC from 1994 to 2003 and was the Director of the newly established Institute of Aquaculture (2003-2012) that resulted from the merger of the IMBC with the National Centre for Marine Research (NCRM) and the foundation of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) until its merger with the Institute of Marine Biology and Genetics, and the creation of the Institute of Marine Biology, Bio-

technology and Aquaculture (IMBBC). At the same time, he was the scientific director of the CretAquarium and his contribution to the design, implementation and scientific and operational support of the project was fundamental.

At the academic level, Dr. Divanach has made major contributions to the science of marine biology and fish farming. He has published over 130 original papers in international scientific journals. His published work has been a benchmark for the Mediterranean aquaculture industry and has over 4,000 citations (H-index 39). Dr. Divanach also had a rich teaching work especially at the graduate level, directing a large number of scientists specialising in aquaculture, while training the initial core of corporate Greek fish farming personnel in the 1990s.

Dr. Divanach's work has decisively and substantially influenced the development of fish farming and for this achievement he has already been recognised both in Greece and abroad. He has been awarded the Aquapartner 2007 title at Helexpo, he has been announced a Knight or the Order of the Phoenix by the French Embassy in Greece, and received the title of Lifelong member of the European Aquaculture Society, an honorary title awarded to only 10 people worldwide for their contribution to the development of aquaculture.

The recognition of Dr. Pascal Divanach's contribution, both nationally and internationally, has led to the award of the title of Researcher Emeritus of IMBBC/HCMR.

Dr. Antonis Magoulas

*Director and President of the Board of Directors of
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)*

Dr. Constantinos C. Mylonas

*Director of Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology
& Aquaculture (HCMR)*