



Patricio Bernal

Dr Patricio A. Bernal served as Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and one of the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO from 1998 until 2009. During his almost 12 years at the helm of IOC he led the development of the World Climate Research Program, the Global Ocean Observing System, the establishment of the Joint Commission of Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (jointly with WMO), the Coastal Management Programme, including the promotion of spatial planning (jointly with NOAA, and UNEP), the development of a Global Tsunami Early Warning System and the establishment by the UN General Assembly of a Regular process for the Global Assessment of the marine environment (Jointly with UNEP).

Before joining the UN in his country, Chile, he had served as Under-Secretary of State for Fisheries, guiding the implementation of a new Fisheries & Aquaculture Act and leading the Chilean Delegation that negotiated the UN Straddling Stock agreement. From 1990-1994 he was the Executive Director (CEO) at the Fisheries Development Institute (Chile).

With a considerable international experience as a Member of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, as Head of Delegation to the First Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development, APEC, and to the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries, Rome, he has participated in many international scientific and policy meetings. Recipient of a Special Conservation Award from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA/US-DOC) for "*outstanding contributions to the conservation of marine mammals*" he was elected in 1999 Foreign member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences.

Dr Bernal holds a PhD in Oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego. At Scripps he obtained the Carl Eckart Prize to the "most outstanding dissertation in 1980" working on the bi-hemispheric nature of El Niño and on the physical biological coupling of large pelagic ecosystems. He is author of more than 50 contributions and book chapters in the international scientific literature. Professor of Ecology and Oceanography, he has served as Head of the Department of Oceanography in the Catholic University of Chile and Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and Oceanography at the Universidad Austral de Chile.