

Cronkite Ocean Awards 2026



Salvador Malheiro

Portugal's Secretary of State for Fisheries
and Maritime Affairs



Clube Naval de Cascais



October 29, 2026

Stone Soup Leadership Institute

www.stonesoupleadership.org

www.BlueEconomyGeneration.org/Portugal

www.CronkiteAwards.com

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Speaker Bios

Secretary of State for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Salvador Malheiro. A Mechanical Engineer from the University of Porto and PhD in Energy, Thermodynamics and Combustion from the University of Poitiers, he combines a strong technical background with extensive experience in public leadership. He served as Mayor of Ovar Municipality for over a decade and as a Member of the Portuguese Parliament, where he stood out for his commitment to sustainability, regional development and local community engagement. With a professional background in bioenergy and renewable energy systems, he has collaborated with the European Commission and several international companies. In the Portuguese Government, he is focused on advancing the fisheries sector, maritime innovation, and the sustainable growth of Portugal's blue economy — blending scientific expertise, strategic vision, and a deep commitment to the ocean's future.

Deputy Mayor Luis Capão is the Vice-President of the Câmara Municipal de Cascais. Through his leadership roles in local government, environmental agencies, and sustainability initiatives, his career is deeply connected to the green transition, and the sustainable blue economy (ocean and coastal management). Central to his leadership philosophy is treating citizens—including the municipality's youth—as co-creators of the territory. He champions Cascais Jovem's youth initiatives emphasize sustainability, active citizenship, and professional empowerment. He holds a BSc in Forestry Engineering (ISA-UTL), an MSc in Information Systems Management (NOVA IMS), and an Executive MBA from AESE/IESE Business School.

Carolina João is a Portuguese Olympic sailor and 5-time Portuguese national Olympic **champion**. As a pinnacle figure in Portuguese sailing, Carolina serves as an inspiration and ambassador as she trains youth at Clube Naval de Cascais featuring youth sailing academy, providing year-round training camps, Optimist and 420 youth class teams, and intensive summer programs. Carolina has a master's degree in chemical engineering from the *Instituto Superior Técnico* (IST) in Lisbon.

Lili Caneças is an active champion the sustainable blue economy through her official appointment as an Ambassador for the Fundação Carlos Albertino Veiga. Primarily recognized as a prominent Portuguese socialite and television personality, she has increasingly channeled her public platform toward global ocean conservation, marine sustainability, and literacy.

Miguel Roque is the Institute's first Blue Economy Youth Leader Ambassador. For the last year he has represented the Institute at Blue Economy conferences with Forum Oceano, DGPM, BlueBio Alliance, and C2Sea and the Institute's Global Blue Job Shadow Day.™ He worked with the Institute's global team to inspire the Blue Economy Youth Ambassadors. Miguel is the founder of **Volta Adventures**, a sustainable tourism company based in Cascais, Portugal.

Marianne Larned is an author and the Founding Director of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute, celebrating its 30th anniversary. As a pioneer in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Marianne developed public-private partnerships with Fortune 100 companies and Chambers of Commerce on workforce development. For the last year, Marianne has led the Institute's Blue Economy Initiative in Portugal including the Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ 2026 and serving as a mentor to the Blue Economy Youth Ambassadors. Marianne holds a master's in organizational development from Boston University and the University of Massachusetts School of Education. Her passion for sustainability evolved from living and working alongside young people for 25 years from island communities that are on the front lines of climate change – from Martha's Vineyard to Puerto Rico, Hawaii, British Virgin Islands, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines.

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**The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's
Cronkite Ocean Awards • 2026**

Event Program

Master of Ceremonies	Rodrigo Olivera The Institute's Business Partnerships
Municipality of Cascais	Vice-President, Engineer Luis Capão Secretary of the Environment
Clube Naval de Cascais Member	Carolina João, Olympic Sailor
Stone Soup Leadership Institute	Marianne Larned The Institute's Founding Director
Blue Economy Youth Ambassadors Manifesto	Miguel Roque Blue Economy Youth Ambassador
The History of Cronkite Ocean Awards	Video
Guest Speaker	Lili Caneças
Cronkite Ocean Award 2026 Recipient	Secretary Salvador Malheiro Secretary of State for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
The Institute's Pledge with Walter Cronkite	Video

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The Institute's Blue Economy Youth Ambassador Initiative Advisory Council

- Ana Noronha, Ciência Viva
- Andre de Almeida Santos, Indico Capital Partners
- Antonio Baldaque da Silva, Católica-Lisbon's Center for Sustainable Finance
- Arnold Deville, Ireland-Portuguese Business Network
- Jose Gamito Pires, International Finance Corporation
- Maria João Ferreira, Direção-Geral de Política do Mar
- Carolina Mendonça, Sustainable Travel International
- Mariana Paupério, BlueBio Alliance
- Rodrigo Oliveria, Fórum Oceano
- Vanda Vasconcelos, FOR-MAR
- Valerie de Liedekerke, Atlantic International Research Centre

Blue Economy Leaders Interviews



**The Blue Economy Generation:
A Manifesto from Portugal's Youth to its Leaders**

Young people in Portugal are concerned about our future. We're excited Portugal aspires to become a leader in the Blue Economy, and we want to be its Champions: The Blue Economy Generation.

We are the **Blue Economy Youth Ambassadors**, a small, but mighty group of university students who answered a **Call to Action** from the leaders of business, education and government leaders at the Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Global Blue Job Shadow Day™: **to build a Blue Economy workforce by empowering Portugal's youth.**

Portugal has what it takes to **lead the Blue Economy** – we have the sea, the science and the spirit. We have the largest maritime territories in Europe – and our position unites us with America, Africa and Europe. Our ancestors sailed to the edge of the known world, and beyond. **We want to stand at that frontier again.**

The momentum is real: Portugal's Blue Economy has grown significantly since 2020 - blue start-ups are worth 34 times more now, rising from €47 million to €1.6 billion – in just 6 years!

We believe that Portugal's youth can build on this momentum.

We just need to know:

Where are the jobs? How can we learn about them?

Where can we be trained for them?

During our research, we have found a workforce pipeline that is broken at every stage: while we excel in Ocean Literacy; most students are unaware of available blue career pathways; vocational and technical jobs are being overlooked; and too often graduates arrive at jobs full of theory and empty of practical experience. As a result, our best people are leaving in search of better opportunities.

Each Ambassador championed one pathway: from **Blue Finance, Blue Tourism, Aquaculture, to Blue BioTech, Blue Shipping, Ocean Tech, Clean Water Management, and Renewable Energy.** We dived deep into our research. We conducted surveys and interviewed leaders. We mapped local job projections, education requirements and salaries to help educators guide students toward well-paid blue economy careers. And we prepared comprehensive reports of our findings. And we designed a roadmap for how business, education, and government can work together to bridge the gaps and build a strong workforce pipeline. We are proud to present this plan today to **Portugal's Secretary of State for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Salvador Malheiro at the Institute's Cronkite Ocean Awards.**

A Strategy Without A Workforce Is A Plan On Paper.

We propose a **Blue Economy Workforce Commission** to be championed by the Secretary Malheiro in order to engage Portugal's business, education, and government leaders to work together to build this workforce.

We imagine a Portugal in 2050

.... where every young person, from the Algarve to the Azores to the interior, learns at an early age that the sea is not only the beach. That it offers young people a career, a passion, prosperity, and most of all the knowledge that our very survival depends upon it.

- **We want to build a Portugal** whether you choose a vocational certificate or a university degree, the ocean will offer you a future that you can build right here.
- **We want Blue Economy companies** to work hand in hand with our schools.
- **We want to connect Ocean Literacy with Blue Economy jobs.**
- **We want the media** to track our leader's progress and
- **Educate society** by spotlighting our blue pioneers in the daily news.

Only this way can Portugal rediscover the potential of our sea -- as our ancestors once did.

Our shared commitment:

Invest in our Youth.

Invest in Portugal. Invest in our Future.

**If we invest today, we will see returns by 2050,
in skilled people, thriving companies and a country that leads.**

We call on our leaders to open this Blue Economy to *all* our youth and show us where the opportunities are. Working together, we know that we can turn our potential into opportunities, and vision into real careers – so we can become the Blue Economy Generation-- and realize our shared goal of being leaders in Blue Economy.

As Walter Cronkite said, “We ask each one of you to take the first step, that is the important step, and the others will follow.”

The Blue Economy Youth Ambassadors, Portugal, October 29, 2026

Blue Economy Generation



www.BlueEconomyGeneration.org/Portugal



Global Blue Job Shadow Day™



THE STONE SOUP LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE'S

GLOBAL BLUE JOB SHADOW DAY™ 2027

February 2027

Portugal • France • San Francisco

**The Blue Economy Workforce:
Investing in the New Frontier**

**Let's work together to educate the Blue Economy Generation
and help them become the champions our oceans.**





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