

CRIME : RIBAMAR, PORTO DINHEIRO

00:01

- There's no better life than life at sea. The sea has its own rules... and we all must follow those rules...and respect them.

00:44

- Ah...well...that's the way life is...

01:18

- These are good ones!

02:22

- Sometimes people say "captain, the sea is dangerous."

The sea isn't dangerous.

The sea, as I already told you before, is the most beautiful wonder of nature.

Man has to know how to handle it.

The sea was made for Man and Man was made for it.

It isn't its fault if somebody pushes his luck and never comes back again.

It is a giant of nature...just like us.

02:44

- When you spend too much time at sea, you get tired.

The first reason is balance and the second is the noise.

We are constantly hearing the noise of the engine working.

When we step onto solid ground, it's difficult to keep balance.

About the noise...when the engine stops it seems like we are in a completely different world...When we stay in complete silence...

There are moments when everything stops so we can rest...When we are not working...

We don't have precise working hours. It depends how things go during the day. If everything goes ok and we finish our work earlier there's time to rest...if it doesn't, we'll rest later.

03:53

- It's a part of our town's history...since our great-grandfathers ...

We still have many people in our family who are fishermen.

04:04

- In that town almost everybody is a fisherman.

04:15

- Ribamar essentially lives from fishing.

04:17

- Here, we have a few small boats that go fishing. In summer, we have fresh fish everyday.

04:31

- People come to watch the ocean, to take a walk, to relax...

Many people come here, specially on weekends.

04:37

- It's a very active town. It works a lot for its own development.

04:50

- Everybody has a computer, everybody has internet, everybody has a mobile phone...everybody has some means of communication.
They already have everything when they go fishing.

05:00

- Several dinosaur fossils were found. One was found right here, at Porto Dinheiro beach.

05:07

- We have the Ribamar festivities, that everybody likes to see, in which everybody likes to participate...

05:13

- I wouldn't trade this town for another one.
This is my town...and I like it best.

05:17

- I have always liked to live there.

05:23

- There are some difficulties, I guess...
...but when people get around to doing something, they do it well.
There are already things that highlight Ribamar.

05:34

- We have good (marriage) catches. (Hier findest Du eine gut Partie)

05:36

- In Vimeiro, we have a memorial that commemorates The French Invasions.

05:40

- We have three nurses...

05:44

- We have also some boys who are engineers...

05:46

- Engineers!

05:47

- We have architects...

05:51

- The existence of dinosaurs in this area...I guess there aren't many places in our country that can be proud of it, isn't that so?

05:55

- Here, we have a folk song! This folk song was brought from the region of Lourinhã, from the Ribamar town.

There, we found this beautiful song...For you all... "MANUEL"!

06:22

- When large boats started to go fishing for lobster, people also started to make a lot of money...

The way I see things, this population wasn't used to having so much money...and, therefore, they didn't know how to manage it.

06:46

- Around 1976/77, a fisherman who went fishing abroad would make ten times more money than a more skilled fisherman would at coastal fishing.

This allowed him to have a purchasing power above the average.

07:08

- I built many houses for those fishermen.

They told me "Build the house. I don't have the money now, but I'll go out fishing a few more times and I'll pay you".

07:19

- Every member of our crew had a house and a car.

07:27

- They wanted to stand out.

They spent a lot of money on consumer goods. They changed furniture every two months...for example.

They moved house.

Almost brand-new furniture was thrown away just like that, because they had plenty of money to buy a new one.

07:39

- It was a period of ten, twelve years...

07:42

- A very good time.

07:47

- They enjoyed a high standard of living...because they would go fishing abroad and brought their catches to sell here.

They earned a lot of money.

They lived better then...

07:59

- When something happens, it's not all good. There are good things, but also bad things.

08:06

- That's a small one! Here, take it! Put it there! Fisherman!

08:09

- It's delightful...

08:13

- This one is from Senegal and this one is from Morocco.

08:27

- When we set sail to Mauritania our purpose was to do the same as we were doing in Morocco: to catch fish with entangling nets.

What did we find there?

We found lobster in plenty.

That moment, we stopped catching fish with entangling nets and started to fish lobster.

Obviously, this wasn't authorized...

08:55

- It was...almost savage...Because of the kind of nets used...

Because sizes, distances, even the procreation habitats, were not respected.

09:22

- When we reached a certain area, we didn't need to use the sonar...

We dropped the nets at random and there were plenty of lobsters to catch...

That means people made a lot of money...

09:38

- Now it's...as we know...almost uninhabited.

09:45

- There were plenty of lobsters, so we had to work hard. We didn't stop. Everything I did, everybody had to do it too.

We worked round the clock almost...

Not less than twenty hours a day...

Sometimes, we had a rest while we were sailing from one place to another...three, four hours maximum...Because, otherwise...

The boats were good. We worked in all kinds of weather. It could be still or it could be windy. The boats were in good conditions, they could work in anything.

No one could harm us...

We worked every single day.

Poor fishermen, they suffered a bit.

It was hard.

10:21

- ...I endured it.

As we use to say, I would grit my teeth and...and there I went!

10:29

- There were no complaints.

The money we made fishing was worth everything...all the hard work...

11:05

- Yes, there were bad things also: Drugs.

11:08

- A generation from twenty years ago almost disappeared. Seventy to eighty percent of the youngsters died.

People forget about that.

11:16

- During all these years, I think more than two hundred individuals under thirty-five died because of drug addiction.

...and this town isn't that that big...

If you go to the cemetery...you'll find one, another, and another...

11:30

- Those that went fishing abroad, and had contact with Morocco and its people, had a tendency to use drugs.

Once they started, it was very difficult to stop...

Many people died of overdose.

Many schoolmates of mine from elementary school died from it.

12:00

- It was convenient for us to have young people working. There was an age limit. We didn't take people who crossed that limit, because they wouldn't stand the rhythm.

12:10

- Boys studied until the fourth class - obligatory age. After that, they would take the seamanship license and go fishing.

12:25

- In those days, nobody knew what drugs were.

What was a drug?

Today we can explain to people what a drug is but, back then, we didn't know how.

Therefore, since people didn't know what it was, they would try it once and became addicted.

All the money they made was spent on drugs.

12:46

- People were free now, they were emancipated...their minds were more open now.

In other countries, it happened in the sixties, here it started later.

People started to try other things. Besides that, they had money. They made fortunes fishing.

They really made fortunes!

They had nothing and suddenly they got rich.

The excitement of being able to buy anything...even drugs...

13:20

- It didn't affect only the young fishermen. The ship-owners, the best masters, had problems too.

13:35

- It was fashionable.

It was a middle class fashion.

To those fishermen who had money to burn, to take part in that ritual...

It gave them a certain status...particularly to the youngest.

13:55

- Men from fifteen, twenty...to thirty years old...

It was something new.

In the beginning of the eighties people started try new things, so...they tried everything!

14:12

- They had almost no education.

Since fishermen earned a lot of money then, they would leave school at the age of fourteen and go fishing.

Another thing was that in a small boat would go fifteen to twenty fishermen.

Everybody fitted tight in very small bunk beds, during a whole week.

It was easy to share their first joint, pills and heavy drugs.

The ambience helped...plus the lack of education...

14:48

- There were certain rules aboard. Normally, the captain wouldn't allow people to use drugs.

15:05

- The fishermen worked too much. They worked many hours, days on end. They didn't have much rest.

I remember that during a whole week I didn't allow anyone to sleep.

I didn't sleep, but the poor fishermen worked day and night without sleeping.

15:23

- We had to endure...

I knew some people who used speeds.

I never used them.

15:32

- If one member of the crew used drugs, it would have an influence on the others.

15:42

- They would stop using it when they went fishing. It wasn't compatible with work.

Others started doing it after...

15:49

-when they came back from fishing.

15:50

- They started to use drugs from that moment. They had access to it; they started to try it...

15:52

- Some went cold-turkey. The withdrawal was hard...They spent one, two whole months without using drugs...It was ok for them...

However, when they came back, the minute they saw Peniche....

Ok! Here we go again!

It was a vicious circle.

16:07

- Only a few young men didn't start to use drugs then.

16:17

- You try something...you do it once and, without noticing, you become an addict.

16:21

- There isn't a single reason, a pattern...

16:22

- There isn't. There's no balance...

16:25

- There's no logical reason to drug addiction...
There are many factors at work.

16:34

- I've fasten the inside net and now I'm going to fasten outside ones, one on each side...and then I fasten them all to the rope. This rope takes the buoys. Is the one that stays on the surface.

17:00

- Almost every family in Ribamar has a story to tell related to drugs.

17:11

- One was Carlos Anacleto...
I don't even know their names...
One was Luis and the other one was Carlos, I think...

17:17

- Some people in my family had problems with drugs.

17:21

- I had one case in my family. They had to emigrate to escape from problems.

17:27

- They already died, also because of drugs.

17:30

- Yes, also because of drugs.

17:32

- They were first cousins.

17:33

- We had Eduardo Miguel sons, from Porto Dinheiro.

17:43

- We had one from Ribamar...Mateus, I think, Maximo and Ramiro Aguiar...
The three started their own company.

17:52

- I have a brother and a sister.

17:53

- The children come from fishermen families.

17:57

- They were also fishermen. They also went fishing abroad, and destroyed themselves.

18:03

- Some of the parents had those problems.

18:09

- Edmundo Miguel was the first one with a large boat to go, alone, to Azores's fisheries.

His sons had some problems...

He had five or six sons, and only one didn't have problems with drugs, I think...

Two died of overdose...three or four of them are still drug addicts...

In that family, only one escaped from it!

18:39

- Nobody in my family had those problems, but I know people who did...

It's a hard life!

18:49

- We shouldn't forget those who got out of it.

18:51

- Yes...

18:52

- We have Chico Sarico for example, who went to a detoxification centre. He had a relapse but now he's now fully recovered. Today he works at the centre helping the others.

19:09

- Ivo, do you know the story of that couple whose girl was a Sunday-school teacher?

19:17

- Who was she?

19:18

- Who was she? They're saying her story was in the newspaper!

19:21

- I think it must be Patricia.

19:23

- Ah, patricia!...how beautiful

19:24

- It was in 2002, I guess.

19:27

- That girl is ok now.

19:29

- That girl was my Sunday-school teacher.

19:31

- She's a relative of mine....

19:34

- She was a very nice girl, and she still is.

19:38

- She was always a well-behaved girl. We raised her. She worked at this restaurant.

She was always a well-behaved girl.

19:48

- She left everything and...I don't know...I don't understand how these things happen...

19:55

- Do you want me to tell you how I found out about her? I can tell you, it's not a problem.

20:04

- She's ok now. She married again.

20:07

- She was separated.

20:08

- She has a baby. She's ok now.

20:14

- Every situation was a private matter. It didn't bring people closer. They dealt with it alone.

They tried to do everything on their own.

I didn't feel people any closer, willing to help each other.

There was no cooperation here!

20:43

- I think it was something temporary. People overcame it. Something of the past, at any rate.

20:48

- It was a problem, and it still is...

20:51

- About drug addiction, I believe things will get better.

20:57

- Unfortunately, I have friends who are addicted.

Now they know what drugs are, but they become addicted anyway.

21:05

- The syringes I exchanged in the last ten minutes weren't to inject heroine or cocaine, but pills.

As we can see, there's a change of behavior.

21:18

-There are some people...but not so many...

21:20

- ...not so many...

21:21

- I believe so. At least we don't see them so much...

21:24

- They use other stuff. They do it because they have this need...they need not to think, not to feel...

21:40

- The fishing port is at Peniche, but, honestly, I can't imagine Ribamar without the sea.

21:51

- I come from a family of sailors who were born in the age of Discoveries. I learned many things with them. One was how to face the sea.

22:05

- Maybe at the beginning it was an obligation, not only for me but also to my family. I don't dislike this way of living, but I can't say I like it either. It's a hard life...Yes, it is! It has pros and cons, anyway.

22:20

- I could be studying, but I've chosen to be a fisherman. It was my dream and I decided to follow it. It's still my passion. I hope to keep on following it.