



AUG 18

Posted 11:06pm

Human Potential

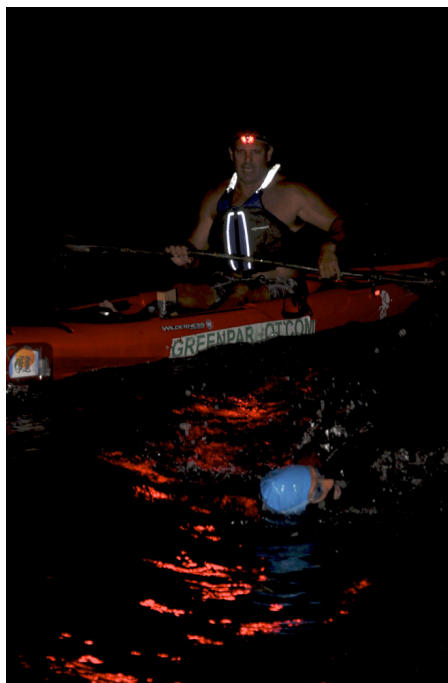


photo: Christi Barli

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Saturday 9:30pm EST 5:47 Swim time

Human Potential

Diana's endeavor is toward testing the limits of human potential in more ways than one. Certainly, it is a quest to see how far a body fired by heart and will can take you into the unknown. But it is also for her a quest toward compassionate connection with nature, to bring attention to the largest part of the world, its oceans and waters. Her challenge to us is to connect with the part of ourselves that respects the planet we share with all living things. Because sharks and jellies are a part of her world, and she is a rare visitor here and now, everything she's done to protect herself from danger in the wild has been non-invasive. The shark shields do not harm the sharks; they simply (hopefully) discourage them from seeking food from her. Athletic as they are, the shark divers are shark scholars, well-schooled in their behavior. Their mission is also not to harm but to convince them the grass is greener elsewhere. (What a bad metaphor for water...oh well!)

The same is true about the jellyfish. Diana and her crew believe that compassionate connection happens best sometimes from a distance. After last year's encounters with very dangerous types of them, she called jellyfish expert [Angel Yanagihara](#) at the University of Hawaii, who diagnosed that the boat's white lights probably attracted them. This time, Diana's boats are using only red lights, which are not appealing to them. She's devised a salve for treatment, patent pending; it's a green stuff. And already one of the shark divers has had occasion to benefit from it, just a few hours into the swim.

Protection, not destruction, is the bent of this expedition. In fact, because of Diana's initiative and Angel's inquisitive mind, this swim is also somewhat of a scientific expedition. Angel and her crew is taking samples along the way for study.



5 captures

Diana's love of and respect for the ocean and nature attracted the support of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an organization of scientists, lawyers, and lobbyists devoted to

clean oceans, because more often than not nature needs protection from us. Their current initiative is [reviving the world's oceans](#). Diana's current initiative—to revive in us humans the sense of our own potential as she explores hers—seems to go very well with this. The ocean is vast and so is human potential. As alien a place as it may seem to us, at night, out in the middle of nowhere, the ocean is a somewhere, as mysterious and glorious as anything imaginable.

--Candace Hogan, reporting from aboard Quest in the Florida Straits



Visit [DianaNyad.com](#) to view the swim in real time!



Will you join our Xtreme Dream Team? Any donation, no matter how small, makes you part of our Team.

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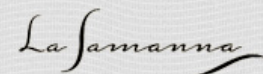
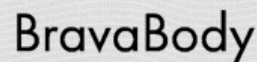
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Built and designed by Brass Nine Design