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Jellyfish Suit

Posted by [Xtreme Dream Team](#) on Jul 31, 2012 in [2012 Training](#), [Blog](#) | [12 comments](#)



There are many variable, reasons for concern, in the long crossing from Cuba to Florida.



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Photograph by Catherine Opie

But [after my 41 hours of extreme pain and anaphylactic shock from the deadly Box jellyfish stings last year](#), we have made protecting ourselves from the venom of these animals our #1 concern this year.

My partner, the company [FINIS](#), worldwide leader in technology for swimming, spent four months this year researching and developing a suit for me.



Here it is. Approved by the sport of ocean swimming. No neoprene at all, meaning no unfair flotation aspect. Not as easy to swim in as plain skin, unfortunately. But at least through the two entire nights I'll be swimming, when the jellyfish are most likely to surface, will wear my FINIS suit.

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1. [Mary Watts July 31, 2012](#)

Although I have no issues with the 'stinger' suit I do take issue with your saying there are 30 some open water swimming federations who approve of this suit. At this time I am aware of none that approve it. Can you please share your list of 30 so I can be educated.

Also, your support crew may not touch you during your swim. You will need to learn how to put this suit on by yourself and to grease and sunscreen yourself. If your support crew intentionally touches you the swim becomes null and void in all open water swimming rules. There is some sunscreen available that can be prayed onto wet skin and your support crew can easily apply this without touching you. Again, do you want to have a tainted swim or a clean swim?

[Reply](#)



2. [Meg July 31, 2012](#)

With all due respect, I am very surprised every time I read comments that discuss Diana's choices and ask her if she "wants" a tainted swim. The swim is hers. The dream is hers. We are all along on this wonderful ride with her. How ever she

[gets across the ocean is going to be an amazing thing to watch. To me, it doesn't matter if the swim is legally sanctioned or not... I leave those decisions up to Diana ... and I will root her on every step \(stroke?\) of the way.](#)

[Reply](#)

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moookie July 31, 2012

Thank you! Seriously right? Get off your high horse lady!

[Reply](#)



3. Naama July 31, 2012

Hi Meg-I agree.

And Diana-WTG on continuing to problem-solve (rather than what most would do and fold over and say they cannot do it and are too afraid of a 'tainted swim' to try and figure out a path to actualizing a dream...) and for coming up with the (anti)jellyfish suit! I think I might want one myself, for swimming in the Mediterranean next time I'm there in a summer... where some jellies like to take over the beaches in late summer. You rock, m'dear. I'm SO glad you are not OCD material but ICD (I CAN DO) materia1! 😊

[Reply](#)



4. Steve Willis July 31, 2012

Just making the entire swim will be an amazing feat! Someone else can meet the challenge, later, to do it better, faster, etc. Records are made to be broken, but there is always a first!

[Reply](#)



5. mary July 31, 2012

Mary Watts... having a bad hair day.... Relax! Go Diana. and at your age and stage I hope you teach all of us young'ens, (I am only 57!!) a thing or two... you just do this.. Mary M!

[Reply](#)



6. David Barra July 31, 2012

<http://Www.thelongestswim.com>a guy who made his own rules.

Mary watts, I see no point in posting here anymore. It's clear that most of the posters are fans of Diana and couldn't care less about the sport, therefore a discussion is impossible.

[Reply](#)



7. Becky July 31, 2012

DIANA! FULL SWIM AHEAD! Tune out the noise, the chatter, the naysayers even the challengers - stay focused on YOU and your "game plan". DIANASTINGER! See you as you touch land in FLORIDA!

[Reply](#)



8. Bob Johnson July 31, 2012

Diana is an amazing woman. Period. I had the privilege of being her friend in high school. She was amazing then, and, guess what, she still is. Diana, I'll be praying for you, for calm waters, great currents, and NO JELLYFISH. Thanks for being an inspiration to so many of us baby boomers. You ROCK!

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9.  Jean golden July 31, 2012

We all want you to be safe, Diana.

[Reply](#)

10.  Chris Baring July 31, 2012

We will follow and support you in whatever fashion you choose to reach your goal. GO lady

[Reply](#)

11.  Bob August 10, 2012

I agree that the swim is all Diana's. However, when she summons up legitimacy by publicly claiming the approval of swimming federations and the marathon swimming community, then she must accept the criticism from them as well. In reality, Diana has chosen to swim this in the way she wants to, but to tell the general public that swimming federations and the marathon swimming community supports the way she is doing it is simply wrong.

I think she, and marathon swimming, is best served by her attempting the swim in any way she wishes (and hopefully completes it) and stops claiming that her swim is acknowledged by various international swimming federations (or that marathon swimmers are having to resort to the use of jellyfish suits). This is a very new thing. I am aware of only one other (terrific) swimmer who has used them on a swim. (This currently is a topic of hot debate among swimmers)

After she complete's the swim, it is what it is and will find it's appropriate place in marathon swimming history. I don't think it will be in a category with swims that comply with English Channel Rules, but I do think it should be elevated above a swim in a shark cage.

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Diana Nyad's Xtreme Dream

Diana is more than a swimmer. She's a beacon of hope to us all that we can dream big, live life large & be who we are, no matter whatsoever."

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Xtreme Dream. For Diana Nyad's representation please contact [Pam Derderian](#)