

http://diananyad.com/expeditions-and-solving-the-challenge-of-the-jellyfish/

Go

NOV

JAN

FEB



[2 captures](#)

1 Nov 2011 - 1 Jan 2012

2011

2012

2013

About this capture



Search this site...



Diana Nyad Xtreme Dream 103 miles. Cuba to Florida. Summer 2011

HOME STORE SUPPORT THE DREAM! JOIN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT DIANA BLOG BRAVABODY PARTNERS SUPPORT THE DREAM » CONTACT

Home » Blog » Expeditions and solving the challenge of the jellyfish

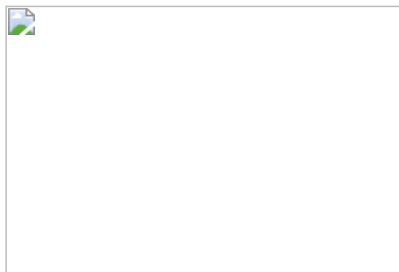
Expeditions and solving the challenge of the jellyfish

Posted by Xtreme Dream Team on Oct 20, 2011 in Blog | 13 comments

Expeditions can take decades to solve all the problems that come your way. 80% of all ocean swims today the are cancelled are due to jellyfish stings. They are becoming a huge problem for ocean swimmers today.

"It remains to be seen who finds a solution to these crazy little frightening animals"

-Diana



13 Comments



jane doe

October 21, 2011

Where did you come up with this statistic? I know of very few swims that have been stopped due to jelly fish. I am an observer for the Catalina Channel Federation and know of zero swims stopped due to jelly fish. Anne Marie Ward swam the North Channel while receiving more than 200 jelly fish stings.

Reply

Archives

Select Month

Diana's Tweets



- Happy New Year!!!! [about 6 hours ago](#) from [HootSuite](#)
- Bring diversity to your play list with [@mikezubi](#), a wonderful and inspiring artist <http://t.co/dzRbDS21> Is your Xtreme Dream in music? [about 17 hours ago](#) from [HootSuite](#)
- A new year calls for new beginnings, what do you have planned for 2012? [about 19 hours ago](#) from [HootSuite](#)
- A winner is made of effort, motivation, perseverance and the courage to always push ONWARD. <http://t.co/T7oweNYy> How do you vision 2012? 02:20:06 PM December 30, 2011 from [HootSuite](#)
- [@wwdr1ve](#) Thanks for the RT. What's your Xtreme Dream for 2012? 08:32:27 PM December 29, 2011 from [HootSuite](#)in reply to [WWDr1ve](#)



Firebah

October 21, 2011

Who came up with that statistic? I follow marathon swims taking place all over the world thru chat sites, facebook, and other OWS info sites and rarely ever hear of jelly fish as the reason for swims being stopped

[2 captures](#)

1 Nov 2011 – 1 Jan 2012

NOV

JAN

FEB



01



2011

2012

2013



About this capture

Reply



Suzie Dods

October 21, 2011

Uh, just curious how you determine what is an ocean swim? I swim regularly in the Pacific as well as having completed the English and Catalina channel. Both of which I would consider "ocean" swims. I know of only one EC swim that was stopped by jellies and none in the Catalina. people swim all the time off the Pacific coast , up and down it and I dont know when jellies have stopped anyone. People swim all the time in the Atlantic and I dont know when jellies have stopped a swim. Yes, Penny stopped one of her swims due to jellies and the Monterey Nay swim has only been completed once , and has been stopped due to a severe reaction to jellies but Cook Strait? Jellies arent the issue. gibraltar? jellies arent the issue. Rottneest? Jellies arent the issue. Lake Ontario? jellies arent the issue. For hundreds, nay thousands of swimmers -jellies are not the issue Again, where are you getting your statistics? and what do you consider an 'ocean' swim?

Anyone who attempts a long distance swim, be it 10 k or 25k is bound to not succeed every single time. It's a learning experience, not a failure, unless you don't learn from the experience. !!

Reply



Julie g

October 21, 2011

I love getting stung by a jellyfish... Breaks up the boredom of swimming all that way. I've never heard a statistic like that and am quite afraid that your source is having a slow news day and has resolved to making stuff up!

Reply



Laura B.

October 21, 2011

If you love getting stung by the jellyfish as you claim, this should really do it for you. The toxin from all jellyfish is cumulative. Meaning that it builds up in a persons body and never exits the system. Each additional exposure increases the chance of dying from anaphylactic shock. In some people, it increases the chance of developing Arthritis later in life. Another fact: Box jellyfish are different from most other species of jellyfish because they have the unique ability to propel themselves through the water and hunt their prey. Other species float on the current and being stung by them is a matter of chance. Where did I get my facts? I made my living from the ocean. My first job as a travel and tour director was in Hawaii. I would sell and then lead travelers on diving trips and other adventures. The most important function I provided was to keep them safe and that came from doing research. I'm sure that Diana's staff or source isn't making stuff up and has done their own research. As everybody should.

Reply

[2 captures](#)

1 Nov 2011 – 1 Jan 2012

Julie g

October 22, 2011

All grand Laura, but for marathon open water swimming, of which I am a part

NOV

JAN

FEB



01



2011

2012

2013

About this capture



there are almost never cancellations of swims due to jellyfish. To say 80% is fairly inaccurate, end of. I'd say it's more like 0-1%. Marathon swimmers are a tough breed; jellyfish stings are a part of the process. If they're causing damage, then so be it. I'm not going to let a sting stop me from my swims. As said above, Ann Marie Ward withstood over 200 stings in the treacherous north channel and emerged triumphant. I've done swims around Malta where the stings covered me head to toe. If you want to be a sea swimmer, you gotta HTFU!

Reply



firebah

October 22, 2011

Well said Julie. Sure Laura, jelly fish may be like a bee sting – you never know if this is the one that may cause you a problem. For OWS this is an accepted hazard of the sport just like the threat of a shark bite. Like many extreme sports there are things that can hurt or even kill the participant but that is part of the challenge and one does what they can to minimize the potential while participating in their dream to accomplish their goal. As they say "no pain, no gain".

I have been thinking about this whole 80% thing and if it is correct then I must know the 20% because I only know of one swimmer out of literally thousands and thousands who was forced to stop a swim due to numerous stings from Portuguese Man o Wars leaving welts on every surface of the swimmer's body. Personally Laura, I believe Diana is making this stuff up to have an excuse for her failure to reach her extreme dream. Sorry if that offends you but that is my opinion based on my experience as a marathon open water swimmer.

On another note, the world's greatest open water swimmer, Penny Palfrey has announced she is going to attempt to swim from Cuba to Florida in 2012. Not only will she be attempting this swim she will also be raising global awareness to eradicate Polio. What a concept to make the swim about something important and not a 'hey look at me, aren't I something!' swim.

Reply



Swimming Holiday

October 22, 2011

I agree Diana, jellies are all around and a known(huge problem for open water swimmers. But we need to agree there are different kinds and not all stop you from swimming if you are tough enough. I've seen many cases where swimmers stayed in the water after being stung for several times and they were able to continue. And yes, there are some nasty ones which are difficult to battle. Good luck to all outdoor swimmers facing jelly and other monsters out there 😊

Reply



Ginger

October 23, 2011



This is in response to Firebah's post. I think it is naive to think that Diana's swims are only for her and not for some "higher global purpose". Maybe you have not seen the kind of impact she is having on people. I can testify to the effect her recent swims have had on me. I am 59 years old and thought my athletic days were behind me. I was content to feel "good enough" and to just let life come to me. But her willingness, at 62, to take on that kind of an ocean swim literally opened my eyes to the fact that I was not living life fully. I had been underestimating myself. I was letting precious moments go by unaccounted for. Her swim from Cuba to Florida symbolizes all that is right with humanity. It is honest and authentic and hard. It requires team work. Even though she has not yet completed the swim, in my mind her journey is an inspiration to everyone who is taking life for granted. To me that is a global message of health and happiness and commitment and hard work. How can you argue with those ethics?

Reply

[2 captures](#)

1 Nov 2011 – 1 Jan 2012



Steven Munatones

October 23, 2011

This might help the conversation that I believe hints at the very real problem of a worldwide increase in jellyfish. But relative to swims in warmer waters, the number of jellyfish that swimmers face in the San Pedro Channel (Catalina Channel) are insignificant. In contrast to many other places around the world (from Florida to Japan) where jellyfish infestations are increasing, I have been surprised how few jellyfish currently find their way to Southern California. For swimmers on the West Coast of the US, this is good news, especially because I remember many more jellyfish in the coastal waters during the 1960s and 1970s. But, it is a fact that jellyfish and Portuguese man o war are more problematic in swims held in the Caribbean Sea, Asia and South Pacific. Also, Anne Marie Ward was not successful on her swim where she was stung over 200 times. She attempted to swim the North Channel four times, 3 times defeated by nature. It was her fourth attempt of 18 hours 59 minutes that she was able to avoid the jellyfish problem. When she was stung 200 times, she was pulled from the water and hospitalized.

Reply



Laura B.

October 23, 2011

Your opinions are indeed your own but to ignore hard data and science is at least reckless. There are many websites and studies that will back up this statement. I have traveled almost every ocean, sea and water way known as a travel agent and tour director in the twenty years I have been doing this and I have seen the rise in contact with jellyfish. What is most frightening is the number of people who have been stung by the box jellyfish. The results can be deadly. It's a growing problem with no easy answers. Knowledge is power and a great deal of information is out there for you. I am an unabashed Diana Nyad supporter. I have been cheering her on since we were both younger. Our path through life isn't so very different and I can really relate to her. I truly don't believe she is making stuff up as you have said. In my field, I am privy to information that the public will never get access to, even through the travel .com sites. As a journalist, I'm sure she has access to information that you don't have. Her swim was far from a failure, it isn't even important to a lot of people that she didn't reach the

other shore, what is most important and inspiring is that she tried. Both times she did the best she could. I see no subterfuge or ruse there. You saw something that I didn't if you think she had a look at me attitude. ?? I guess it all depends on what side of the fence you're on! No offense taken or intended, just differing opinions. Live your life your way and with passion!

[2 captures](#)

1 Nov 2011 - 1 Jan 2012

Reply



Swmmrgrrl

November 6, 2011

Why so swim with so much exposed skin when there are jellies in the water?

Reply



Michael Farr

November 16, 2011

You know guys, I love swimming but getting stung by jellyfish doesn't sound like fun. Perhaps a Jelly fish sting or 200 might not stop those at the extreme end of the spectrum but for most of us mere marathoners a jelly fish infested route is not what we signed up for. Cold, conditioning, strategy, mental preparedness, not a problem, but how many stings before misery turns to danger and you remember you're doing this for fun?

Reply

Leave a Comment

Name

Mail (will not be published)

Website

Your message...

Submit

Dream

[2 captures](#)

1 Nov 2011 – 1 Jan 2012

that we can dream big, live life large, and look back at all of it with no regrets whatsoever."

- The Best Second Act Of 2011
- The Value of Being Silly, Absurd & Having Fun!
- Happy Holidays!
- We're Horrified. Now what are we going to do about it?
- Store Temporarily Offline

- Thelma on The Value of Being Silly, Absurd & Having Fun!
- LindaM on Happy Holidays!
- Eileen on Happy Holidays!
- Rachel M. & Kathy M. on Happy Holidays!

NOV

JAN

FEB

◀

01

▶

2011

2012

2013

⌂

?

✕

f

t

About this capture

- October 2011 (17)
- September 2011 (43)
- August 2011 (36)
- July 2011 (20)
- June 2011 (11)
- May 2011 (15)
- April 2011 (4)
- March 2011 (2)
- February 2011 (1)
- January 2011 (2)
- October 2010 (3)
- September 2010 (7)
- August 2010 (14)
- July 2010 (13)