

October 2, 2018

To: World Open Water Swimming Association

From: Janet Hinkle, Observer, Diana Nyad Cuba to Key West Swim

In late August 2013, I was contacted by Diana Nyad and asked to be an independent observer of her proposed swim from Havana to Key West. Conditions were deemed favorable for the swim and I along with others in the group departed via boat that same afternoon. My instructions were very simple: I was to observe Diana in the water and be able to confirm at some point in the future whether or not her forward progress in the swim was assisted in any way. I took my independence from the team and my role as an independent observer seriously and made contemporaneous notes while aboard Observer. We departed for Cuba about six hours after I was contacted by Diana.

The other observer, Roger McVeigh, and I shared duties and took four- to six-hour shifts. Roger took the first shift. When Diana was standing on the shore of Cuba, at ready to jump, I was on the bow of a nearby sailboat to watch her jump into the water. I pulled out my I-Phone and prepared to hit my stopwatch. When Diana jumped into the water, I hit "start" and only hit "stop" when she first touched the shore in Key West, 52 hours, 54 minutes, and 18 seconds later. I was on the beach and observed her swimming to shore, rising to her feet, and touching the Key West sand.

I estimate I spent about half of the (rounded up) 53 hours onboard Observer. There were times when our planned four-hour shifts changed because of weather conditions. I recall a time when Roger extended his shift on board longer than planned because a storm impeded transfer from the catamaran, where I would stay and rest between shifts. It's likely that Roger spent a bit more time with Diana than me.

I was able to observe Diana at all times when I was on Observer, an open boat that allowed clear visibility while she was swimming and when stopped for water and nourishment. I attest that I never witnessed her holding onto the boat or kayak, being held up in the water by others, wearing fins, wearing buoyancy devices, or using anything beyond her own arms and legs to propel her through the water. We were all aware of the importance of this because she was seeking to meet all the requirements of an open water swim.

At the conclusion of the swim, I submitted my log of notes taken during the swim to Diana Nyad for inclusion into the official record.

If this organization has any questions or concerns, please call [REDACTED]