

Subject: Cuba swim and stinger suit

From: Ned Denison

Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2012 15:20

To: Diana Nyad, Penny Palfrey

Cc: Steven Munatones

Steve mentioned that you will probably wear stinger suits on your Cuba swims.

In our wonderful open water world there is always the chance of some "traditional" open water folks sending messages to the google groups or getting quoted saying adverse things about the swim suit.

There are several ways to deal with this:

1. Just ignore it
2. Have a few of us prepared with quotes to fire back - example:

Ned Denison: "The debate on what is allowed in open water swimming has been raging for years and will continue to rage for years. I have been in discussions in the past with a small group of swimmers who want to bring it down to basics: naked, no goggles, no cap, no ear plugs, no grease, paddle or sail (ONLY) escort boats, no feeds during the swim, no whiteboards or verbal discussion/encouragement from the crew and no GPS. Yes, this would make a swim more difficult, but it dramatically increases swimmer risk. She agreed, in advance, a set of rules in line with all the major federations with the addition of a non-buoyant stinger suit. Due to the length of the swim and the nature of the jellyfish in those waters it was a reasonable safety (not speed enhancing) measure. The vast majority of open water swimmers, pool swimmers and public out there are applauding and inspired by the success."

3. The other idea might be for me to pull together a new Cuba to Florida swimming association (non-fee collecting !) this week (!) which would adopt these rules and sanction the swim.

I would be happy to be a member....and would ask folks like Kevin Murphy, Nick Adams, Forrest Nelson, Scott Zornig and Ram Barkai to join the board. With a weight of TOGS only (well known) characters...we might scare away any nay-sayers.

Any views?

Ned

Note: I reformatted and edited this document for readability but not content.

Sources: The report includes [an image of the message](#). Donal Buckley (as user loneswimmer) posted [a text version](#) to the "110 miles, 53 hours . . ." Marathon Swimmers Forum discussion on 13 Sep 2013.