



**Shelley Taylor-Smith, Honor Swimmer, Australia,
1990**



[Personal Website](#)

Shelly Taylor-Smith won 7 Majors: 1990 Capri to Naples; 1991 International Marathon Swimming Federation World Ranking [with the highest number of World Ranking Points of all swimmers] ; 1992/1993 Marathon Swimming World Series Championship; 1988 and 1994 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup; 1993/1994 FINA Marathon Swimming World Series; and 1991 25 km FINA World Championship. She held the professional women's No.1 world ranking from 1988 to 1995. She set a record for the 48K (28.5-mile) Manhattan Island Marathon Swim and several professional marathons. Shelley won two 25K Pan Pacific Swimming Championships. She was a four-time World and Australian Long Distance Swimmer of the Year between 1988 and 1997, set the record for the 79K (49-mile) Sydney to Wollongong solo swim, won an incredible total of 51 international marathon swimming races, including nine overall (men and women) victories. She crossed the English Channel in 1990, was on a triple-crossing English Channel relay in 1997, was the nine-time Australian Women's National Open Water Swimming Champion and the five-time overall winner of the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim.

She wrote an autobiography called *Dangerous When Wet* and has helped standardize and professionalize the staging of marathon swims around the world through her position as the Honorary Secretary of the FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee. She has oversight of the FINA 10K Marathon Swimming World Cup circuit, the FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix series, the FINA World Open Water Swimming Championships, the Olympic 10K Marathon Swim at the 2008 Beijing Olympics Olympic and the 2012 London Olympics.

In 2008 she was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame and also received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award for her contribution to the administration of open

water swimming. In 2022 she received the Poseidon Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame for her high level performance that advanced the development and status of marathon swimming to the world.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)