



Cindy Cleveland, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2018



Cindy on the right with IMSHOF Honorees Marcia Cleveland (middle) and Anne Cleveland

Personal Website (None known)

Cindy Cleveland recorded three first ever marathon swims starting at age 23. These were hugely significant in extending the locations and range of marathon swimming in California, USA. In 1978 Cindy swam from Oxnard California to Anacapa Island and back (39.8 km (24.2 miles) in 12 hours and 48 minutes. Nearly thirty years after her swim the Santa Barbara Channel Swimming Association was formed and now more than 70 Anacapa solo swims have been recorded and many more solos swims involving the other islands and many relays. Cindy led the way.

In 1979 she swam around Catalina Island circumnavigation (77 km/48 miles). IMSHOF Inductee Forrest Nelson is the only swimmer to repeat this swim. Finally, in 1980 Cindy crossed Monterey Bay (37 km/23 miles) in 15 hours and 21 minutes. Prior to these swims, Cindy recorded two Catalina crossings. One single and an over and back starting from the mainland (64 km/40 miles) in 24 hours and 31 minutes. She was the third swimmer to complete the swim following IMSHOF Inductees Greta Andersen and Penny Lee Dean and still holds the record in 2020 as the youngest ever.

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

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