



Ted Erikson, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 1978



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Ted Erikson was the first to swim 60 km across Lake Michigan in 1961 – his introduction to the sport at age 33. He held two speed records. In 1965 his 2-way English Channel in 30 hours and 3 minutes stood until it was broken by his son, IMSHOF Honoree Jon Erikson, in 1975 in 29 hours and 50 minutes. In 1967 his 47.8 km swim in 14 hours and 38 minutes from the Farallon Islands to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco across frigid shark-infested waters stood until 2014.

He swam from England to France in 12 hours and 25 minutes in 1964 and participated in 8 professional marathon races in Lake Michigan; Atlantic City; Lac Memphrémagog; Atlantic City; and the La Tuque 24-hour relay with IMSHOF Honoree Dennis Matuch.

His Lake Michigan races included 60 km from Chicago to Michigan City, Indiana in 1961 in 36 hours and 37 minutes; 80.5 km from Chicago to Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1962 in 35 hours and 37 minutes; and 96.5 km from Chicago to St. Joseph, Michigan in 1963 in 37 hours and 31 minutes. He swam 19 km Chain o' Lakes swim from Winter Haven, Florida to Cypress Gardens in 1961.

He coached four swimmers across the English Channel,.

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

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