15 November 2026

Jacqueline McClelland to Receive the 2027 Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award



FORT LAUDERDALE – The International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) will recognize Jacqueline McClelland for her extensive contributions to the administration of open water swimming with the 2027 Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award. The award will be presented to Jacqueline during the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) Induction and Award Ceremony in Dublin Ireland on Saturday May 8th, 2027. **The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award is presented annually by the International Swimming Hall of Fame to the individual who has contributed the most to the administration of open water swimming.**

This year's award recognizes Jacqueline McClelland, an open water swimming administrator from Ireland.

Jacqueline co-founded Infinity Channel Swimming in 2013 and remains a Director. She has been a committee member of the IMSHOF Honor Organization, Irish Long Distance Swimming Association (ILDSA), since 2013.

When Jacqueline began administering North Channel swims in 2013, the Oceans Seven was in its infancy. She has been instrumental in increasing the availability of boat pilot escorts: there were 34 solo North Channel crossings between 1947 and 2016, and 180 more between 2017 and 2026. Jacqueline also helped establish a second escort organization in Cook Strait, New Zealand, with 40+ solo crossings since 2019.

Jacqueline helped resurrect the Original Triple Crown (English, North and Bristol Channels), now with 30 members, and has been a Bristol Channel Swimming Association committee member since 2022. She also helped create the Irish Triple Crown (North Channel, Fastnet and Galway Bay), now with 31 members.

She helped organize and deliver the annual ILDSA Awards/Ireland Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame Ceremony, which drew 125 attendees and presented 200+ awards.

Jacqueline also crewed swims in Spain, the USA, South Africa, Australia, Switzerland and Scotland to learn and share best practices.

She is the first female to be recognized as a commercially endorsed boat pilot, and to offer this service for North Channel swims.

She was inducted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame in the Class of 2026.