Irish Long Distance Swimming Association, Honor Organization, Ireland, 2012

Silver Organization Patron

Organizational Website

Videos: Documentary 1 Show 1 Show 2 Show 3 Show 4 Swim 1

Irish Long Distance Swimming Association, Honor Organization

(ILDSA) was founded in 1966 with the aim of promoting open water swimming. The ILDSA organized more than 300 open water events, providing thousands of swimmers an opportunity to compete at the highest levels. The ILDSA established development races that introduce pool swimmers to the outdoor environment. Key races included: Belfast Lough; Clew Bay; Dublin Bay; Shannon Estuary; Lough Neagh; Carlingford Lough; and Rathlin Sound. Lough Erne served as the annual championship. For some, these races also helped prepare the swimmers for the English and North Channels.

The ILDSA serves as the ratification body for the North Channel – part of the Oceans Seven challenge. They also offer marathon ratification for marathon swims in Ireland - listed on their database. Starting in 2010, the ILDSA have organized an annual open water awards ceremony which now includes the induction for the Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame – Ireland.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

IMSHOF Honorees who completed the North Channel

Antonio Argüelles Díaz-González, Honor Swimmer, México, 2015
Cameron Bellamy, Honor Swimmer, South Africa, 2020
Colleen Blair, MBE, Honor Swimmer, Great Britain, 2023
Dr. Caroline Block, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2020
Tom Blower, Honor Swimmer, Great Britain, 1964
Kimberley Chambers, Honor Swimmer, New Zealand, 2019
Marcia Cleveland, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2020
Andrew “Andy” Donaldson, Honor Swimmer, Australia, 2026
Elizabeth Fry, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2014
Pat Gallant-Charette, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2019

Paul Georgescu, Honor Swimmer, România, 2027
Bárbara Hernández Huerta, Honor Swimmer, Chile, 2026
Ted Keenan, Honor Swimmer, Ireland, 1984
Dina Levačić, Honor Swimmer, Croatia, 2015
Michelle Macy, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2019
Attila Mányoki, Honor Swimmer, Hungary, 2016
Rohan Dattatrey More, Honor Swimmer, India, 2018
Lynton Mortensen, Honor Swimmer, Australia, 2024
Gráinne Mary Moss (née Gunn), Honor Swimmer, Ireland, 2027
Kevin Murphy, Honor Swimmer, Great Britain, 1971
Anna-Carin Nordin, Honor Swimmer, Sweden, 2018
Stephen Redmond, Honor Swimmer, Ireland, 2017
Stève Stievenart, Honor Swimmer, France, 2025
Alison Streeter, MBE, Honor Swimmer, Great Britain, 1985
Nora Toledano Cadena, Honor Swimmer, México, 2006
Sarah Thomas, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2018 – first 2-way
Joe Zemaitis, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2025
John Zemaitis, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2027

The list above covers the “normal” North Channel crossings of 34.5 km. These are defined as a start and finish on any location on the Admiralty Chart 2198 (Southern part).

The shorter swim 20.2 km, the Dál Riata, also takes place across the North Channel but doesn’t count towards Oceans Seven.