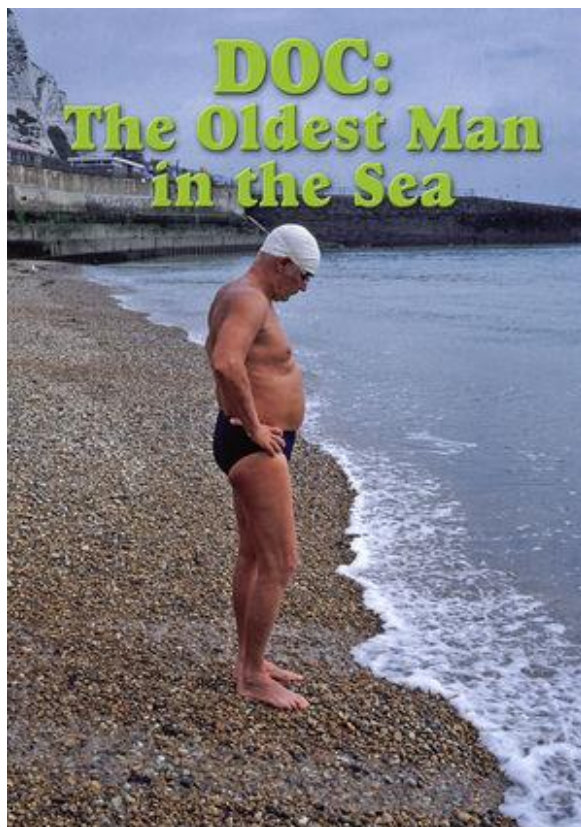




**Dr. James “Doc” Counsilman, Honor Swimmer,  
United States of America, 1981**



Videos: [Interview 1](#) [Documentary 1](#)

**Dr. James “Doc” Counsilman** became the oldest man to cross the English Channel in 13 hours and 7 minutes in 1979 at 58.7 years of age. Doc’s well-documented effort and subsequent documentary made headlines and brought marathon swimming to the attention of the entire world. His record stood until 1982 when beaten by IMSHOF Honoree Ashby “Bud” Harper.

He was the world-renowned coach from the Indiana University who produced many Olympic pool swimmers. Doc is also an inductee in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (1976) and received the Buck Dawson Authors Award and 1990 Gold Medallion.

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

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