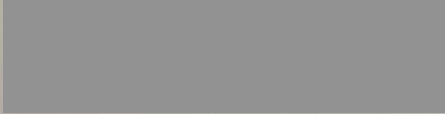


Russell Pantelis



To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Russell Pantelis and I reside in Key West, Florida. I had the privilege of being a member of the kayak team that accompanied Diana Nyad on four of her attempts to swim from Cuba to Key West, the last one, Sep 2, 2013, being successful.

During our shifts of kayaking alongside Diana, electronic "Shark Shields" were towed by the kayaks, with the purpose of creating an electrical field as a shark deterrent. Half of the time was spent paddling to the right of her, and the remainder directly behind her. Of the 53 hours that Diana swam, I paddled along side and behind her for a little over 17 hours.

Never, during any of my shifts with Diana or at any time watching her from aboard the accompanying vessels, did I see her hold on to anything for support. I never at any time saw her being held up by anyone or resting in anyone's arms, from the moment that she jumped off of the rocks in Cuba until she finally walked on to the beach in Key West. I never saw her wearing fins, nor did I ever see her receiving buoyancy or forward motion help (only verbally... a lot), either while treading water or while swimming.

I feel the team learned much from previous attempts that helped each next attempt, but I believe favorable currents, among other factors, played a significant role in success of this one. Diana Nyad as the same determined woman and the gulfstream finally let up.

There is no doubt in my mind that Diana Nyad completed this epic swim under the rules stipulated.

Sincerely,

Russell Pantelis