

ENGLISH CHANNEL

SWIM FACT SHEET



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LOCATION: EUROPE - ENGLAND TO FRANCE

POPULARITY

Whilst not the most difficult swim, it is the most iconic. However, this is a swim that you need to plan a long way in advance. The English and French authorities have placed restrictions on the number of boats that can support channel crossings (see below) and this combined with a limited number of good weather days, the number of slots available each year are fewer than the number of people who wish to swim. Many swimmers plan three years ahead.

KEY CONTACTS

CSA

(www.channelswimmingassociation.com)

Pilots:

- Reg Brickell (Viking Princess II)
- Stuart Gleeson (Sea Leopard)
- Eric Hartley (Pathfinder)
- Andy King (Louise Jane)
- Fred Mardle (Masterpiece)
- Peter Reed (Rowena)
- Kevin Sherman (Connemara)

CS&PF

(www.cspf.co.uk)

Pilots:

- Simon Ellis (High Hopes)
- Paul Foreman (Optimist)
- Lance Oram (Sea Satin)
- Mike Oram (Gallivant)
- Eddie Spelling (Anastasia)
- Neil Streeter (Suva)

KEY FACTORS

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

6 hour swim:

- CSA: 15.5C (60F)
- CS&PF: 16C (61F)

Pass medical assessment

TIDES

The season is broken into 'neap' and 'spring' tides.

Spring tides are where more waters moves up and down the channel.

Slower swimmers may wish to book neap tides.

SLOTS

Pilots book up to 4 slots on each neap tide.

Generally less slots are available on spring tides.

Slot 1 gets offered first weather window, slot 2 next etc. If you don't get to swim in your window your pilot will try to fit you in at another point in the season.

RULES

SWIMWEAR RULES

You may wear:

- One traditional swimsuit (CS&PF not beyond the knee, CSA not beyond hipline)
- One swim hat (not neoprene)
- Goggles
- Earplugs

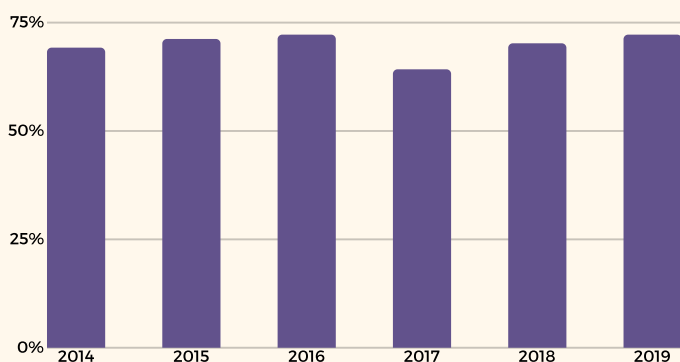
OTHER RULES / CONSIDERATIONS

- An observer will be appointed to ensure you adhere to the rules.
- You must clear the water at the start and the end of the swim, unless you finish at a sheer rock face in which case it may be a touch finish
- You may not touch the boat or any other person
- You can have support swimmer for an hour at a time and the gaps between support swims varies between the CSA and the CS&PF.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- This swim deserves respect and should not be underestimated
- The swim can start at any time of day or night and start time is influenced by the tide times. You should expect to swim a proportion of the swim in the dark
- Frequency and duration of feeds stops are very important due to the tidal impact
- One of the most difficult aspects of this swim is the 'Dovercoaster'. The more flexible you can be throughout the whole season, the more likely you will get to actually swim
- Key **risks** are **SIPE** & **hypothermia**
- You will cross one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world as well as navigate across the lines of the ferries. Your pilot is there to navigate you across this busy stretch of water.
- Key **challenges**: tides, temperature, jellyfish, weather

SUCCESS RATES



QUICK VIEW

	-VE	+VE
Temperature (16-19C)	●●●●	●●
Distance (33.5k)	●●●●	●●
Challenging conditions	●●●●	●●
Success rate (~70%)	●●●●	●●
Price (>£3.5k)	●●●●	●●
Iconic	●●●●	●●
Marine life (jellyfish)	●●●●	●●