

ENGLISH CHANNEL HISTORY

THE WORLD'S TWO GREATEST CHALLENGES

BY BRUCE WIGO

PRESIDENT/CEO, INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING HALL OF FAME

While mankind has succeeded in conquering many adventure challenges, swimming the English Channel and climbing Mount Everest stand out above the rest. But long before Mt. Everest was identified, it was the Channel that was used as a common metaphor for being the most difficult challenge for man versus nature.

Even though the first attempt to climb the summit of Mt. Everest occurred nearly 50 years after the first Channel attempt, more than twice as many people have climbed the mountain than have swum the Channel. This disparity has grown in recent years due to the radical improvement in climbing technology. However, the mountain remains more dangerous than the Channel, as far more people have died trying to reach the summit than the number of swimmers trying to reach land.

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are needed to see this picture.

BY THE NUMBERS:***Comparing swimming the English Channel with climbing Mount Everest***

	Channel	Mt. Everest
First attempt	1872	1921
First man to finish	1875	1953
First woman to finish	1926	1975
Distance	35,000 meters	37,000 meters
Elevation	Sea level	8,848 meters
Avg. temperature	14 to 18 C (57 to 64 F)	0 to -50 C (32 to -58 F)
Avg. time of trip	13.5 hours	2 months
Cost of license	\$220	\$10K to \$25K
Cost of trip	\$5K to \$15K	\$40K to \$100K
Avg. age	35	34
Youngest	11	13
Oldest man	73	80
Oldest woman	66	73
% male/% female	63/37	91/9