



**Dale Petranech, Honor Administrator,  
United States of America, 1995**



Holding the Dale Petranech Award for Services to IMSHOF

Videos: [Interview 1](#) [Panel 1](#) [IMSHOF 1](#) [ISHOF 1](#) [ISHOF 2](#)

**Dale Petranech** became the first U.S. Swimming Open Water Swimming Committee Chairperson in 1977 and developed a successful domestic and international program. He assisted U.S. Masters Swimming to form its own independent organization. He was chairperson of the FINA Open Water Swimming Commission that made recommendations to FINA for inclusion of Open Water Swimming into their organization and eventually served as Honorary Secretary of the FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee. Dale assisted in writing the FINA Open Water Swimming Rules and served as a FINA Open Water Official at several World Championships and World Cup events. He escorted American swimmers at two FINA World Cups. Dale served as the Secretary of the

International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame and has promoted the induction of the finest marathon swimmers in the world into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

In 1985, he became the oldest swimmer to swim across the Catalina Channel and swam around Manhattan Island.

He is also an inductee in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (2014) and received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2006 for his contribution to the administration of open water swimming. The Dale Petranec Award for Services to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame was established in 2016 and Dale was the first recipient based on 25+ years of service to the IMSHOF.

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

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