



# the Longest Paddle

Tom Jones' epic 1,250 mile open ocean journey

by Teia Maman



“I knew I was in trouble then,” Tom told me. “I was in ‘victory-at-sea’ conditions. I had a 12-foot northwest swell at my back and a gale force wind in my face. For all I know, I was moving backwards. I’d already paddled seventeen miles, but I had nowhere to go...”

Months before, endurance athlete Tom Jones had decided to tackle standup paddling the entire length of California. He thought he knew what he was in for... but he didn't expect this...