

RE: Annual Report to Congress – IRC Rating System

REF: IRC Annual Report 2017

BY: RORC Rating Office

DATE: 29 September 2017

1. IRC overview

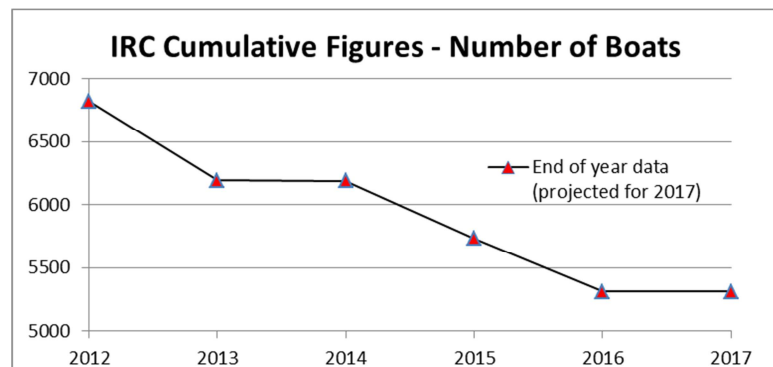
The IRC Rating System is managed by the IRC Rating Authority (RORC Rating Office & UNCL Centre de Calcul) and further administered by 47 additional rule authorities worldwide, on seven Continents, making it the most widely used Rating System available, with **IRC certificates issued in 49 countries**.

► IRC Numbers

The RORC Rating Office has rated 3111 boats (new applications, revalidations, single event ratings (SERs)) to the end of August an increase of 3.4% (101 boats) over the end of August 2016. UNCL rated 1651 boats 2.5% (42 boats) lower than end of August 2016.

Joint figures show that at the end of August the overall total boats rated is 4702 which is virtually equal to the end of August 2016.

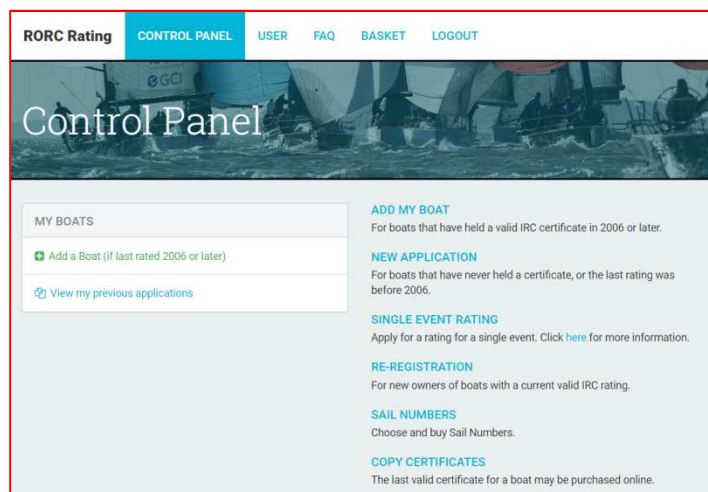
Since 2012 we have seen a reduction each year in total IRC rated boats, but 2017 is the first year since 2012 that we have seen numbers level out with a very similar number of rated boats compared to 2016. The highly successful 2017 Fastnet is an influencing factor on these encouraging numbers.



► MyIRC Development

The RORC Rating Office has successfully continued use of the MyIRC online application portal, and with periodic updates and improvements it is proving to be an efficient tool for GBR owners to submit their IRC applications. The system has also helped to streamline the administration within the RORC RatingOffice.

MyIRC is being further developed to investigate use by Rule Authorities in other



RORC (UK) and UNCL (France)

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www.ircrating.org

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countries. RORC is working with a nation to test how this could best work for both owners and Rule Authorities and continues to work towards the unification of IRC application processes throughout the world.

In addition the Rating Office is working with US Sailing to integrate MyIRC into their SAP certification portal and also investigate areas where this integration can be used for other countries with wider application.

2. Events and Classes

The list of events which used IRC as the principal Rating System in 2017 remains long, with all of the offshore classics (apart from the Newport to Bermuda Race, currently) using IRC as the sole rating system or for the principal trophies. National IRC Championships are held in countries around the world, and in 2017 there were two Continental Championships approved by Congress.

Of course amongst the offshore classics and high level racing, thousands of boats race IRC every week in local and club races around the world. The local racers are very important to IRC and our core stakeholders and we should continue to promote and support this area.

► IRC European Championship

The IRC European Championship took place in Marseille, France from 5-9 July with 53 boats from 10 countries. This was following on from the successful inaugural IRC European Championship held at Volvo Cork Week in Ireland in July 2016 which had around 40 boats. The 2017 Championship was organised by UNCL and three Marseille flagship clubs; Centre Nautique et Touristique du Lacydon (CNTL), Société Nautique de Marseille (SNM) and Union Nautique Marseillaise (UNM), the first time they had organised a major international regatta together. There were 5 fleets from IRC0 to IRC4 racing with trophies for each fleet and an overall prize for the European Championship. Guy Claeys' crew from the JPK 10.10 Espresso 2 were crowned the 2017 Marseille IRC European Champions. In 2018 the IRC European Championship will be in June in Cowes, UK, organised by RORC and incorporating the RORC Commodores' Cup. The Championship in 2019 is scheduled for the Netherlands and is likely to return to Ireland for the Royal Cork Yacht Club's 300th anniversary in 2020.



► IRC North American Championship

The Storm Trysail Club's Block Island Race Week hosted the 2017 North American Championship for three IRC divisions. The overall Championship winner was TP 52 Spookie (Steve & Heidi Benjamin).

► The Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup

One prestigious event for IRC is the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, incorporating the Rolex Maxi 72 World Championships, held in Porto Cervo in September. The event is organised by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda in collaboration with the IMA (International Maxi Association). At the 2017 event, out of

an entry of 61 boats, 56 competed in IRC Classes: Maxi Racer & Supermaxi, Maxi Racer/Cruiser, Mini Maxi Racer/Cruiser, Mini Maxi Wally and the Maxi 72 Class.

► **Fast 40+**

The Fast 40+ class enjoyed close and high level racing this year, racing on IRC corrected time but under tight class limits. 12 boats competed at the One Ton Cup in Hamble, UK and the class continues to grow. We hope it will also expand outside the UK.

► **Offshore Sailing World Championships 2018**

In 2018 the Offshore Sailing World Championships will take place in the Hague, Netherlands, from 12 to 20 July. A world championship was awarded to IRC at the World Sailing annual meeting in 2016 on the proviso it is a combined scoring event with the ORC World Championships. Each boat must have a valid ORC International certificate and a valid IRC Endorsed certificate. There will be 3 Classes based on ORC fleet splits with an ORC Class Division Length (CDL) range $8.45 < CDL \leq 17.0$. For more information and the Notice of Race see offshoresailingworlds2018.com.



2. Technical developments for 2018

The IRC Technical Committee met in Southampton on 6 September. Rule changes were agreed to present to the IRC Congress in November and a good number of rating calculation development were discussed:

► **Rule Changes**

These include simplification of mainsail width rule, removal of dayboat classification from the rule, sail measurement methods, hull factor definition, advertising rule and lifting foil definitions. Rule changes and explanations are presented in the “Proposed IRC Rule Changes for 2018” documentation.

► **Rating Changes for 2018**

- The treatment of lifting foils and lateral foils for increasing dynamic lift (such as DSS) was considered. Simple rules definitions have been developed (presented in rule changes) to describe the foil shape. IRC will therefore recognise the effects of these foils in a more realistic manner while continuing to encourage designers to learn and evolve the systems.



- Whilst we have reduced the impact of Forestay Length - FL such that it will no longer cause a noticeable change to rating, the IRC Technical Committee has decided that it should remain a measured parameter in the database, in case of unforeseen consequences that cause us to reinstate it.

- We continued to monitor the effectiveness of the fin ballast rating with the intention that complex keel fin structures should not be encouraged. We conclude that the current TCC impact does not need further adjustment at this time.
- Some ratings have either increased or reduced due to a change in the method used to rate spinnaker area, this is change that has been applied across the complete IRC Fleet and is being phased in over 4 years. The final year of this change will be 2018.

► **Rating Changes Beyond 2018 and for Further Consideration**

Crew number options were debated, with a paper sent to the IRC Policy Steering Group to consider crew number options within the IRC Rating TCC. Other considerations included Gennakers and Code0s and the development of IRC to better rate these types of sails, particularly when they are used in a windward application on large fast boats. Other areas that have been under development include the beam effects and the windage of the hull superstructure

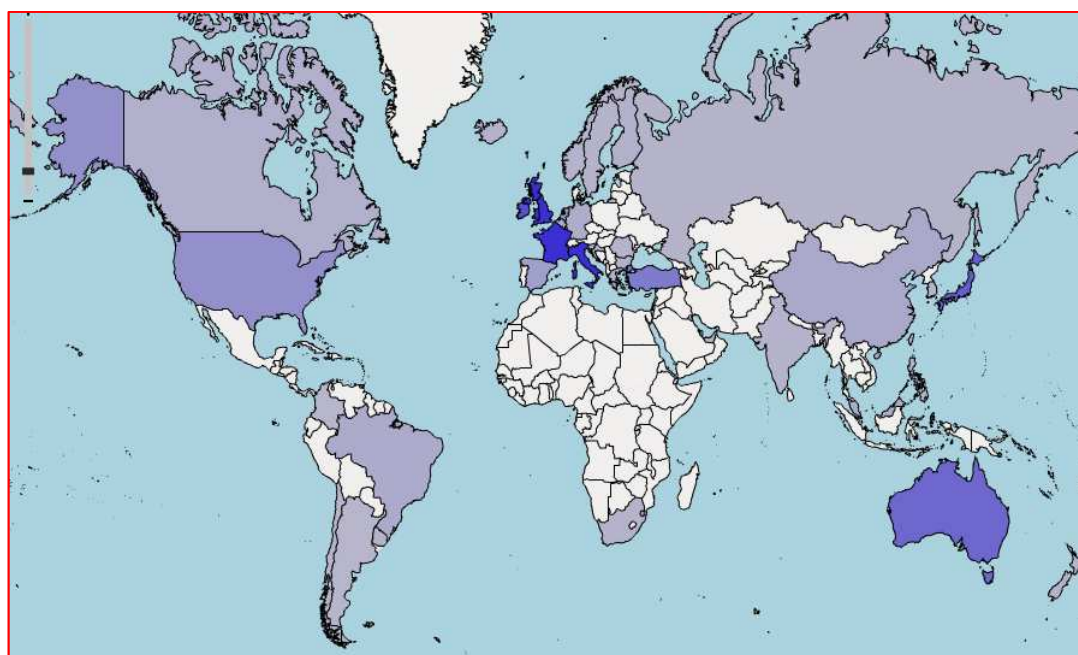
4. Measurement and Rule Authorities.

We continue to work with World Sailing in trying to expand the use of IHC for sail measurement around the world, and the work on the UMS with the ORC and US Sailing continues and is becoming more important with our cooperation over the IRC/ORC World Championships in 2018.

5. Fleet statistics

So as to provide more suitable statistics for comparative purposes we have included the total number of certificates issued as well as the number of boats rated for each of the last 5 years in a table below. From this we can see that the predicted number of certificates for 2017 is in the region of 7,300 worldwide, to approximately 5,300 boats.

IRC Certificate Distribution at 31/8/17



High number of IRC Certificates

NUMBER OF BOATS RATED							31 AUGUST				
Country	Continent	Region	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016 to 31/8/16	2017 to 31/8/17	boats	if over 10 boats
										2017 - 2016	% difference
ARG	S America	South	16	11	13	11	2	0	0	0	
AUS	Oceania	South	498	478	452	426	371	286	270	-16	-4.3
BEL	Europe	North	64	65	72	59	48	45	47	2	4.2
BRA	S America	North		34	56	66	46	37	46	9	19.6
BUL	Europe	North	29	35	29	26	28	26	16	-10	-35.7
CAN	N America	North	67	55	38	39	32	31	22	-9	-28.1
CHI	S America	South	68	79	32	37	18	1	0	-1	
CHN	Asia	North	93	64	96	62	80	58	57	-1	-1.3
COL	S America	South	16	0	5	9	0	0	0	0	
CRO	Europe	North	15	12	8	13	12	7	6	-1	
ESP	Europe	North	134	128	109	93	110	101	97	-4	-3.6
FIN	Europe	North	22	20	16	13	12	12	15	3	25.0
FRA	Europe	North	913	859	850	758	761	659	658	-1	-0.1
GBR	Europe	North	1551	1378	1407	1574	1608	1437	1411	-26	-1.6
GER	Europe	North	47	46	40	53	30	24	37	13	43.3
GRE	Europe	North	80	63	74	50	39	37	17	-20	-51.3
HKG	Asia	South	94	96	88	92	77	68	69	1	1.3
IND	Asia	South					1		5	5	
IRL	Europe	North	355	321	335	320	310	301	322	21	6.8
ISL	Europe	North	13	12	13	12	12	12	13	1	8.3
ISR	Europe	North	43	42	34	1	2	2	0	-2	
ITA	Europe	North	814	716	706	631	526	439	392	-47	-8.9
JPN	Asia	North	298	313	311	309	293	290	289	-1	-0.3
KOR	Asia	North							1		
MLT	Europe	North	65	54	68	57	48	38	37	-1	-2.1
MRI	Africa	North		27	17	4	13	6	5	-1	
NCAL	Oceania	North					5	0	0	0	

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										2017 - 2016	% difference
NED	Europe	North	149	151	142	147	139	131	126	-5	-3.6
NOR	Europe	North	2	7	5	7	2	0	5	5	
NZL	Oceania	South	37	39	45	27	25	17	7	-10	
PHI	Asia	South	9	10	9	5	1	0	0	0	
ROU	Europe	North							1		
RSA	Africa	South	52	64	52	46	34	13	6	-7	
RUS	Asia	North					11	10	8	-2	
SE Asia	Asia	South	74	129	118	104	86	38	38	0	0.0
SLO	Europe	North							1		
SUI	Europe	North							5		
SWE	Europe	North							5		
TPE	Asia	North					5	5	5	0	
TUR	Europe	North	404	389	357	338	289	240	227	-13	-4.5
UAE	Africa	South	61	60	58	57	48	13	12	-1	-2.1
URU	S America	South	27	24	24	24	15	2	5	3	
USA	N America	North	324	273	280	248	180	175	162	-13	-7.2
Worldwide						54	56	44	57	13	23.2
Other (<5)	N/A	N/A	0	79	72	14	11	7	0		
	Total number of boats rated		6434	6133	6031	5786	5386	4612	4502		
	As % of previous year:			95.3	98.3	95.9	93.1	85.6	97.6		
	Number of certificates		8744	8122	8213	7721	7335	6136	6083		