



RE: IRC treatment of lead in keel fins with bulbs, keel types 10 to 12.

REF: Fin ballast 160819

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With the introduction of the rating of bulb weight in IRC for keel types 10 to 12 over the past few years, and the addition of the bulb weight to the IRC certificate in 2016, the focus on the optimum approach to weight distribution within the keel for these keel types has become sharper.

It has become apparent that as **ballast** in the keel bulb is rated, but any **ballast** that is transferred to the lower section of the keel fin is not, there is an incentive for teams to accept a slight raising of the vertical centre of gravity for a reduction in rating that is greater than the performance reduction.

The IRC Technical Committee has therefore agreed that for IRC 2017 the weight of any materials with a specific gravity greater than 9.0 which are found in the keel fin of boats with keel type 10 to 12 and keel fin material of steel, iron or composites shall be declared. The intention is that for 2017 the rating variation between having the **ballast** positioned slightly higher than the **bulb**, or in the **bulb** will be commensurate with the performance reduction. However, it will no longer be ignored in the calculation of the rating effects of the **ballast**.

It is anticipated that in future the effect will be increased and any **ballast** in the **keel fin** will be treated the same as if it was positioned in the **bulb**, increasing the rating more than the performance effect, thus deterring expensive and complex keel fins in accordance with IRC Rules 2.4 and 2.5.

**Please note that this applies to keel types 10, 11 and 12 only.**

**END.**