

National Report: IRC in The Netherlands 2020



Sailing in The Netherlands

The measures due to Covid-19 including travel restrictions increased sales of small (cruising) sailing yachts (< 9m), allowing families and small groups of people to enjoy the lakes and rivers from the water and spend their holidays in The Netherlands.

Sport competitions including competitive sailing (ORC and IRC yachts) however have come to an almost complete standstill. From September 1st, 2020 sailing events were conditionally allowed to resume and only a few championships have taken place since. The uncertainty remains and measures could be tightened again. Unfortunately - not in time nor place - an IRC championship could not take place.

Overview of IRC in The Netherlands

On August 31st the number of IRC certificates in The Netherlands counts 74 certificates of which 41 owners hold an Endorsed certificate: a decrease from the 111 valid IRC certificates in 2019.

A continuing trend remains that IRC certificates are mainly issued to participate in international IRC events. The IRC events are true attractors for owners to invest in IRC certificates.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (ytd)
IRC	175	145	138	153	149	142	145	139	128	116	111	74
ORC	1377	1283	1208	1107	1036	978	1265	1046	1043	880	815	720
Δ IRC		-17%	-5%	11%	-3%	-5%	2%	-4%	-8%	-9%	-4%	-33%
Δ ORC		-7%	-6%	-8%	-6%	-6%	29%	-17%	0%	-16%	-7%	-12%

Competitive sailing in The Netherlands has been severely affected by Covid-19 just like in the rest of the world. The decrease in certificates however is a continuing trend over the past years, which is affected more this year by the Covid-19 situation.

The primary reason for holding an IRC certificate is entering in international (mostly UK/W-European based) IRC events. The strong branded events are the main reason to choose IRC. We urge IRC carefully continue the focus on these international IRC events.

With practically no races this year, all new certificate requests have been postponed till further notice. We expect the certificates with epic events in 2021 like the Rolex Fastnet Race to be requested or renewed again.

Noordzee Club IRC additional activities

As the offshore class association, we continue to attract the IRC participants to the main events like the North Sea Regatta and the Dutch IRC Nationals.

On shore, as the North Sea Club we promote potential participants to register early for OPST training, which stimulates IRC offshore events like the Rolex Fastnet Race 2021 and North Sea Race 2021.

With IRC growth being linked to epic events, we are keen to host the IRC European Championship 2022 (see next paragraph).

IRC European Championship 2022

The Netherlands are eager to organise the European Championships for the IRC in 2022 and there are positive developments in the making.

AOB

There are no submissions for 2021 from The Netherlands.

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