

## IRC Rating System - 2022 Annual Report to IRC Congress and World Sailing

### 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 38 additional rule authorities worldwide, on seven Continents, making it the most widely used Rating System available, with **IRC certificates issued in 40 countries**.

#### ► IRC Boat and Certificate Numbers

Joint figures from RORC and UNCL show that at the end of August the overall total valid boats (new applications, revalidations, single event ratings (SERs)) rated is 3539 which is an increase of 10% (331 boats) from the end of August 2021. There have been 3714 boats and 4853 certificates issued since 1 January in 2022.

### 2. EVENTS AND CLASSES

IRC remains the principal International Rating System for a long list of events around the world, with the offshore classics, including among others the RORC Transatlantic Race, Rolex Fastnet Race, Rolex Sydney Hobart Race, Rolex Middle Sea Race, RORC Caribbean 600, Aegean 600, Rolex Giraglia Race, Spi Ouest France, SNIM and the Voiles de Saint-Tropez using IRC as the rating system for the principal trophies.

#### ► 2021/2022 Events and Championships

There has been a full programme of RORC supported inshore and offshore IRC events around the globe with examples including the Dubai to Muscat Race, SSE Round Ireland Race, Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta and the inaugural Roschier Baltic Sea Race.

There are many local inshore and offshore IRC racing events around the World from club events to IRC national and regional events. This report will highlight some of the major international events and for information on local events please refer to the individual country reports submitted to the annual IRC Congress on the IRC website: [ircrating.org/about/irc-congress/](http://ircrating.org/about/irc-congress/)

Elsewhere around the world there are many examples of premiere IRC events inshore and offshore with a small selection as follows:

#### AUSTRALIA

The 76th edition of the Rolex Sydney Hobart race started on 26 December 2021 with a fleet of more than 90 yachts. Winning the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race overall after IRC time correction and securing the coveted Tattersall Cup was Matt Allen's Ichi Ban who has won two of the past three editions, in 2017 and 2019.

Hamilton Island Race Week in August 2022, raced amongst Queensland's Whitsunday Islands, incorporated the Australian Yachting Championship with 46 boats racing in five IRC rating divisions ranging from an Adams 10 at 0.988 to the Reichel Pugh Maxi 'Wild Oats XI' at 1.947. After six days of

round-the-islands courses, in many cases the overall Championship class winners were determined in the final race.

## FRANCE

Both full crewed and short-handed, the IRC UNCL Championships began with the Massilia Cup in early April 2022 in the Mediterranean and with the traditional Spi Ouest France at Easter in the Atlantic.

The IRC UNCL Championships, 68 competitions in total this year, combine the most renowned French and international events with lesser-known competitions which benefit from an attractive promotional framework, offering those events the opportunity to develop.

In the Mediterranean, the 2022 Championships are not yet over, while in the Atlantic and Channel, the winners are: Eric Fries' JPK 10.80 Fastwave 6 (Crew-IRC1), Laurent Sambron's Sun Fast 3300 Hémon Camus EJP XV (Crew IRC2), David Cooper's Dehler 38 Longue Pierre (Crew IRC 3) and Pierre-Emmanuel Aubert's Sun Fast 3200 Georgia – A chacun son Everest (Double Handed).

2022 saw the creation of the Cap Martinique, the first non-stop transatlantic in IRC starting from France. 38 boats left La Trinité-sur-Mer on May 2nd for Fort de France in Martinique. Alexandre Ozon's Sun Fast 3300 Sapristi - Trophée Estuaire Rose won the Solo category, while Ludovic Gérard and Nicolas Grossay's Jpk 10.80 Solenn for Pure Ocean claimed the victory in the Double Handed class.



© Jean-Marie Liot / Cap Martinique

## GREAT BRITAIN

This year IRC had a full national programme of premiere events with the 12 regional championships spread wide over the UK and Spinlock offering generous prizes to all events. Highlights include the Welsh National Championships and Channel Island Championships culminating in the IRC Nationals over an outstanding long weekend of yacht racing, the Royal Ocean Racing Club's 2022 IRC National Championship was a resounding success. Overall IRC National Championship winner going to Fast 40 Rán VII by the tiniest amount – 0.005 of a point – from JPK 10.80 Yes!



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The RORC domestic calendar of inshore and offshore IRC events has been busy with many IRC events from the club in Cowes, including the RORC Easter Challenge, Vice Admiral's Cup, Sevenstar Round Britain and Ireland, De Guingand Bowl, Myth of Malham Race, East Coast Race to name but a few.

### ITALY

The 13th edition of the 151 Miglia Cetilar Trophy started on the 2nd June 2022. The race course explores the Tyrrhenian Sea, starting from Livorno-Marina di Pisa, then heading Giraglia Rock and returning to the Tuscan coast to reach the finish line of Punta Ala after leaving the Forminche di Grosseto on the left.



© Immagine dall'organizzazione della 151 Miglia, foto F. Taccola

While Furio Benussi's 100ft Arca SGR took the line of honor for the second time in a row and victory in the IRC Over 60' class, Guido Barone's Sun Fast 3600 Lunatika took the first place IRC overall comprising 4 IRC divisions.

### IRELAND

192 boats took part in Volvo Cork Week in July 2022 which incorporated the ICRA National Championships. In all there were 12 classes scored in IRC including non-spinnaker classes, and the fleet included teams from Ireland, France, Hong Kong and the UK. Racing was a full five-day programme with classes moving between five different and varied race courses.

### JAPAN

Two major events were successfully held this year. The 720-mile Okinawa-Tokai Yacht Race, the longest offshore in Japan every 2 years, took place after cancelling in 2020 due to the pandemic. Ten boats raced within one IRC class. The 63th Pearl Race was held in July for the first time since 2017. The last four events had been cancelled due to typhoons in 2018 and 2019, and covid-19 in 2020 and 2021. Although the fleet size was smaller than usual, the race attracted 50 boats all racing IRC, with 8 double-handed.

### MALTA

In October 2020 there was the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rolex Middle Sea Race organised by the Royal Malta Yacht Club under the authority of the Malta Sailing Federation and the Federazione Italiana Vela, with the collaboration of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC). The overall trophy is in IRC with 6 IRC Classes in total. The event also forms part of the RORC overall season points championships. There were 106 boats competing with the overall



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winner Comanche, the 100ft Maxi. In 2022 there are currently around 100 IRC boats entered with the race due to start on 22 October.

### TURKEY

From 22 to 24 September 2022 the Bosphorous Cup was raced from Istanbul, sailing on the Bosphorus between two continents (Europe and Asia) with the active currents of the Black Sea. For the first time in many years, one of the smaller boats has won the IRC overall trophy. Yaşar Doğa Arıbaş and his team on the Archambault 35, Coca Cola İçecek – Das, lifted the ornate trophy thanks to very consistent scores in the three-day competition.

Marmaris International Race Week organized by Marmaris International Yacht Club (MIYC) has been held for 32 years, of which 33rd edition will be in October 2022. MIRW has the largest number of participants in Turkey. 125 boats competed in 2021 and approximately 140 boats from 14 different countries are expected for this year; registration is still ongoing and will be open until October 22nd, 2022. Races are held in two classes; IRC Racer and IRC Charter. MIRW has been rising in popularity during recent years at the Eastern Mediterranean region and also the weather condition in the last weeks of October in Marmaris region of Turkey are extremely favorable for yacht races.





## ► 2022 & 2023 IRC European Championship



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The 2022 the IRC European Championship was held over 4 magnificent days in Breskens, Netherlands. Alain Rousseau and his largely French crew on the Dehler 29 Picsou enjoyed a resounding regatta, winning the double points-scoring, non-discardable medium coastal race on Thursday and following this by scoring five bullets in eight races in the IRC 3 Class. However, the results of Francois Goubau and his team on board the Bénéteau First 47.7 Moana were also as good, but significantly they were achieved in a larger

class of 18 boats (IRC 0 and 1 combined) compared

to IRC 3's nine. Moana that was crowned the 2022 IRC European Champion, just 0.003 of a point ahead of Picsou after calculations were completed.

The 2023 IRC European Championship will likely be held in Cannes, France. The 8th edition of the IRC European Championship will take place in September 2023.

## ► 2022 Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup

The Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup once again proved that the RORC/UNCL's IRC rating system is thriving at one of the most prestigious events in the sailing calendar. This year's event, organised by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda in conjunction with the International Maxi Association, saw a return to a pre-pandemic fleet size with 37 boats competing under IRC across five classes. The longest – the four J Class yachts, Velsheda, Topaz, Ranger and Svea – raced under their own rule. Divided into five principal classes based on size and potential, the winners were: Highland Fling XI. (Maxi); Vesper (Mini Maxi 1); Capricorno (Mini Maxi 2) and H20 (Mini Maxi 3&4). The event also saw the new Roberto Lacorte's 60ft FlyingNikka compete in her own IRC Mini Maxi Class 0. Flying Nikka is the first ever flying maxi, based on AC75 technology, with flip-up T-foils to port and starboard and a single rudder with an adjustable elevator.

## 3. IRC CONGRESS

The IRC Congress will meet on 15 October in person in Valetta, Malta, and via video conference call. The IRC Congress will discuss the organisation of IRC and IRC Events around the World. The proposed technical development will be presented and approved. There will also be considerations of the Championships for the future. There is also a constitution change where the IRC Policy Steering Group who oversee IRC policy is replaced by the already active IRC Board with principal members from RORC and UNCL. Papers can be seen on the IRC website: [ircrating.org/about/irc-congress/](https://www.ircrating.org/about/irc-congress/)

## 4. TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS 2022

### ► IRC Program and Certificate Processing

The new IRC processing program in 2022 has worked well with a new certificate format and processing. There have been further developments throughout the year with more data checks and tools for research. In 2023 we will have an IRC Certificate Page 2 with the boat drawing and dimension and then looking to expand the information on the certificate over time. The program and calculation methods will be updated for the 2023 IRC formulation and rule, and development will continue in 2023.

### ► IRC Technical Committee

The IRC Technical Committee consists of nominated representatives from RORC and UNCL. The committee continues its many discussions via digital meetings etc. Rule changes have been developed to present to the IRC Congress in October and a good number of IRC rating calculation developments are being discussed.

### ► IRC Rating and Rule Changes for 2023

There are proposed rating changes for the following areas:

- Introducing the secondary certificate worldwide after a successful trial of the concept in the Southern Hemisphere throughout the second half of 2022.
- Introducing sail stickers for IRC Endorsed boats in 2024.
- Clarification of backstays and aft rigging.
- Updating of the rules to match World Sailing terminology.
- It is proposed to rate number of headsails in 2023 or 2024, to be decided by IRC Congress.

The final modifications will be confirmed at the IRC Congress and will be published later in the year for sailors to understand the changes.

### ► Rating Changes Beyond 2022 and for Further Consideration

Technical Committee research continues into the following areas: keel types, hull types, foils, flying headsails and aerodynamic drag.

## 5. MEASUREMENT AND RULE AUTHORITIES

We continue to help our Rule Authorities around the world who look after the network of IRC measurers while offering resources for appointing and training measurers. The Rating Offices will be happy to receive any requests that the rule authorities may make in this regard. Our actions in this area were numerous in 2022:

In the UK we produce the training materials and have seminars to keep the team of measurers up to date and also bring in new individuals. Earlier in 2022 we had an online Equipment Inspection seminar with information on how to plan and conduct equipment inspection at events. This proved to be a popular topic with measurers, GBR championship representatives, JOG, RYA and Irish Sailing Association measurers attending.

An IRC measurement seminar took place in Nieuwpoort, Belgium last March for the measurers of the WWSV, IRC Belgium. We were particularly happy to hold this seminar which has been postponed many times in the past due to the pandemic.

Two weeks later, a course organized at Russo Yachting in La Seyne-Sur-Mer, made it possible to strengthen the skills of 5 existing IRC Endorsed approved measurers and to appoint 3 new ones for sails measurements. This extended network over the entire French Mediterranean coast is likely to meet the requirements of IRC owners and our commitments to the IMA.

Finally, always with the aim of offering the best possible service to our IRC owners, courses and sails IRC measurements training took place in La Trinité sur Mer and Lorient from April to July 2022. 6 new IRC Endorsed measurers were appointed in 4 different sail lofts.

Australian Sailing is experiencing a boom in demand for yacht measurement, a reflection of the enthusiasm for IRC racing countrywide, and has recently held two IRC measurement training courses, including boat weighing, assisted by local measurers who refreshed their knowledge alongside the trainees. The Australian Sailing Measurer courses provide a structured approach to learning the correct techniques to conduct fundamental measurement for certification. Five new measurers have been accredited in Hobart, Tasmania while 10 signed up for the course held in Melbourne, Victoria. There are also at least two more courses including New South Wales and Queensland.

The work on UMS with ORC and World Sailing continues and we maintain the use of IHC for sail measurement around the world expanding its use for IRC.

## **6. IRC FLEET STATISTICS**

To provide 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 the end of 2022 is in the region of 6000 worldwide, to approximately 4160 boats. Information on fleet distribution is shown below.

*Note: IRC Fleet statistics table on next page*

## IRC Certificate Distribution at 31/8/22

Full certificates only, excludes Short-Handed and SER (GBR/FRA)													
IRC area	Country	Continent	Region						To 31 August				
				2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 to 31/8/21	2022 to 31/8/22	boats 2022 - 2021	if >10 boats % difference	
118	IRL	Europe	North	326	301	293	204	254	243	268	25	10.3	
136	CAN	N America	North	24	27	22	3	1	1	1	0		
138	DEN	Europe	North		4	1				1	1		
139	FIN	Europe	North	16	19	12		2	1	13	12		
140	GER	Europe	North	44	47	38	11	25	23	22	-1	-4.3	
141	NED	Europe	North	126	118	113	74	74	67	63	-4	-6.0	
142	NOR	Europe	North	6	9	1	1	1		2	2		
143	SWE	Europe	North	5	12	4	3	10	7	11	4		
144	ISL	Europe	North	13	13	11	12	10	10	9	-1		
146	ISR	Europe	North	1	2	0							
147	MLT	Europe	North	42	49	33	32	33	28	32	4	14.3	
148	JPN	Asia	North	296	269	286	225	230	226	241	15	6.6	
150	KOR	Asia	North	1	3	1							
152 & 452	Worldwide			68	57	70	39	54	33	43	10	30.3	
153	TPE	Asia	North	5	5	9	8	8	7	16	9		
203	AUT	Europe	North					1					
206	BUL	Europe	North	18	20	21	20	27	26	28	2	7.7	
209	CRO	Europe	North	6	12	10	5	10	3	2	-1		
210	CZE	Europe	North					2		1	1		
218	GRE	Europe	North	22	23	25	6	24	22	21	-1	-4.5	
223	LTU	Europe	North					1		1	1		
226	POL	Europe	N					1					
228	ROU	Europe	North	10	1	3	2	8	3	1	-2		
229	RUS	Asia	North	10	13	11	10	18	9	11	2		
234	SLO	Europe	North	1	0	1	1	1					
237	SUI	Europe	North	5	4	10	6	6	6	8	2		
242	MRI	Africa	North	5	9	0							
244	BRA	S America	North	49	61	89	57	7	7	0	-7		
408	NZL	Oceania	South	14	13	1	1	1		1	1		
409	RSA	Africa	South	6									
410	HKG	Asia	South	84	84	84	65	65	58	52	-6	-10.3	
412	PHI	Asia	South	1	6	6	2	7	3	2	-1		
414	SE Asia	Asia	South	70	92	78	16	31	17	32	15	88.2	
416	UAE	Africa	South	39	41	38	45	51		4	4		
421	IND	Asia	South	11	16	11	7	15	1	5	4		
501	ARG	S America	South	0	10	5							
505	MEX	S America	South					1					
509	URU	S America	South	14	18	17	18	12		4	4		
510	NCL	Oceania	South	1	0	0		12		1	1		
511	CHI	S America	South	13	17	20	1	7		4	4		
512	COL	S America	South	0	6	4							
101-117	GBR	Europe	North	1472	1424	1399	950	1133	1083	1110	27	2.5	
120-133	USA	N America	North	165	157	156	68	14	11	18	7	63.6	
204-205	BEL	Europe	North	48	56	45	16	31	29	39	10	34.5	
207-208	CHN	Asia	North	72	86	93	20	0		17	17		
212-217	FRA	Europe	North	694	603	608	469	492	427	488	61	14.3	
219-220	ITA	Europe	North	468	459	440	269	320	217	264	47	21.7	
235-236	ESP	Europe	North	106	96	115	63	77	75	100	25	33.3	
238-240	TUR	Europe	North	282	281	291	260	244	152	213	61	40.1	
401-407	AUS	Oceania	South	388	442	439	380	339	173	224	51	29.5	
<b>Totals:</b>				<b>5047</b>	<b>4985</b>	<b>4914</b>	<b>3369</b>	<b>3660</b>	<b>2968</b>	<b>3373</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>13.6</b>	
As % of previous year:					98.8	98.6	68.6	108.6		113.6			

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