



## ICRA Report for Ireland - IRC Congress 2023

### *Irish IRC and ECHO cert analysis*

There are currently 258 IRC registered boats in Ireland, with a further 193 registered for an ECHO cert only. This is a small decline on 2022 numbers and remains below the peak number of boats with IRC certs seen in 2018/2019.

<b>Racing</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
ECHO certs issued	465	488	344	418	447	451
IRC Revalidation	295	270	193	242	246	242
IRC New	11	20	9	13	19	16
IRC Amendment	39	61	15	36	43	36
IRC Trial	42	34	28	21	9	5
IRC Secondary						10
IRC Short Handed	1	1	1	2	1	
IRC Copy	36	24	10	15	10	5
Sail Numbers	85	107	91	92	80	89

We had a busy schedule of events both offshore and inshore nationwide, including a well attended Dun Laoghaire to Dingle race, a windy Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta, and a competitive ICRA Nationals in Howth in September, where numbers were significantly down, in line with UK IRC Nationals.

A couple of trends have emerged this year which is reflected across the country:

- Participation at mainstream regattas and club sailing remains low
- Participation in coastal and offshore racing has continued to grow
- Greater focus on headline events like Fastnet and Round Ireland

- Yachts travelling to events remains low, costs and accommodation availability an issue
- Many boats struggle to attract crew across a crowded calendar, leading to poor turnouts at end of season events, especially after schools start.
- Success of ICRA Under 25 campaign in J24's reduced Nationals IRC turnout

## **IRC Ratings**

1. The secondary certificate has been well received, though it may not be understood yet by all of the fleet. Liz from Irish Sailing asked: "if they choose to amend later in the year they end up having to pay to amend both certs (the primary and the Secondary Cert). Would IRC consider only charging one fee for boats that hold both certs?"
2. In line with ICRA's intention to use 2023 as a year for "education" on safety regulations compliance, a UK measurer attended the ICRA Nationals as a scrutineer to educate and police the fleet. This was a success as a number of boats were observed not to be compliant, but all were able to remedy the issue without penalty. This raises awareness of regulations generally and prepares the fleet for further scrutiny in future.
3. Debate continues on how best to encourage participation of under 18s and females. It is our intention to allow an additional crew number for regattas if you carry either of the above categories.

26/9/23