



ICRA Report for Ireland - IRC Congress 2024

Irish IRC and ECHO cert analysis

There are currently 246 IRC registered boats in Ireland, with a further 201 registered for an ECHO cert only. This is a small decline on 2023 numbers and remains below the peak number of boats with IRC certs seen in 2018/2019.

Racing	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ECHO certs issued	455	497	465	488	344	418	462	467	447
IRC Revalidation	281	291	295	270	193	242	251	245	228
IRC New	26	31	11	20	9	13	20	17	18
IRC Amendment	47	44	39	61	15	36	49	39	37
IRC Trial	20	36	42	34	28	21	13	19	12
IRC Secondary Cert New	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	10	12
IRC Secondary Reval	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9

We had a busy schedule of events both offshore and inshore nationwide, including a well attended WAVE Regatta, a very well attended SSE Round Ireland Race, a smaller Volvo Cork Week, and a very competitive ICRA Nationals followed by a less attended but more competitive IRC Europeans in September. The IRC Nationals represented a 25% increase in participants which was encouraging.

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

- Participation at club sailing level remains low and decreasing
- Participation in coastal and offshore racing has stagnated or declined
- Greater focus on headline events like Round Ireland
- Yachts travelling to events remains low, costs and accommodation availability an issue.
- Many boats struggle to attract crew across a crowded calendar. It seems the number of events competing continues to grow reducing attendees at most events
- The appetite for longer events is in definite decline

IRC Ratings

1. The secondary certificate has been well received, though it may not be understood yet by all of the fleet.
2. In line with ICRA's intention to use events for "education" on safety regulations compliance, a measurer attended the ICRA Nationals and Europeans 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. The additional allowance of an additional crew number for regattas if you carry either of the above categories is definitely proving popular.

20/9/24