

IRC Report 2023/4 - Philippines

In November 2023 racing activity got underway again after 2 ½ years when there had been little activity because of the restrictions imposed by the Government due to Covid. As the Philippines are frequently exposed to typhoons and tropical storms, the sail racing season is generally from November to May each year.

The main events for IRC boats are :

Puerto Galera All Souls Regatta in November

Around island races in the Verde Island Passage, South East of Manila Bay

Bank of the Philippine Islands Corregidor Cup in November

Island races at the entrance to Manila Bay

Bank of the Philippine Islands Busuanga Cup in January

From Manila Bay to Busuanga – 120nm followed by inshore windward / leeward races

The Punta Fuego Regatta in February

Island and windward leeward races

Bank of the Philippine Islands Subic Bay to Boracay March

190nm race followed by windward leeward and island races

Bank of Philippine Islands Subic Bay Regatta

Windward leeward and island races in Subic Bay

This follows the Rolex China Sea Race from Hong Kong to Subic Bay that usually takes place over Easter every two years.

The active racing fleet consists of 12 boats ranging from a J 109 to a 75ft Richel Pugh, which most of the time can only be divided into 2 classes due to the number of entrants. As the season is about to commence, applications for 2024 are starting to arrive and we are expecting the IRC fleet to increase to at least 16 boats with the arrival of new boats and the revalidation of currently inactive boats.

Jerry Rollin