



ICRA Report for Ireland - IRC Congress 2025

Irish IRC and ECHO cert analysis

There are currently 252 IRC registered boats in Ireland, with a further 238 registered for an ECHO cert only. This is a small increase on 2024 numbers and remains below the peak number of boats with IRC certs seen in 2019.

Irish Sailing	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ECHO certs issued	488	344	418	462	467	454	490
IRC Revalidation	270	193	242	251	245	229	239
IRC New	20	9	13	20	17	20	13
IRC Amendment	61	15	36	49	39	41	34
IRC Trial	34	28	21	13	19	19	14
IRC Secondary Cert New	1	1	2	1	10	11	7
IRC Secondary Reval	0	0	0	0	0	9	14

We had a busy schedule of events both offshore and inshore nationwide, including a very well attended ICRA National Championships combined with Sovereigns Cup in Kinsale (biggest attendance in years), a very well attended Dun Laoghaire Dingle offshore, a smaller Volvo Dun Laoghaire Week, and generally decreased numbers in Club racing. The Royal Irish Yacht Club had a team in the Admirals Cup and whilst results weren't stellar, the experience was great. The IRC Nationals represented a 35% 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
- 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 not many takers in reality.
2. In line with ICRA's intention to use events for "education" on safety regulations compliance, a measurer attended the ICRA Nationals as a scrutineer to educate and police the fleet which again was well received.
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. There is also a lot of commentary about allowances for over 70s too.
4. Some regattas have been trialling ORC as they have offered free certificates. Initial results show little difference in IRC and ORC results.

15/9/25.