

2024 IRC CONGRESS
AUSTRALIAN REPORT

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Executive Summary

Key Points:

1. Decline in Revalidations over the last 5 years.
2. Increase in New Boat Certificates including Secondary and Standard certificates, which is seen as a positive development.
3. Continuous Improvement in the accuracy of measurements and the quality of service provided by the Australian Sailing Ratings Office.
4. Technical Inspections welcomed by teams, and the adoption of technical committees across the country is noted as a positive development.
5. Acquisition of High-Quality Load Cell.
6. 2025/2026 should see an increase in boats joining the fleet for the 80th Sydney to Hobart race.

Overview of IRC in Australia:

Table 1

Applications by Type 2024	Count
REVALIDATIONS	303
AMENDMENTS	144
TRIALS	52
NEW APPLICATION	32
SECONDARY NEW APPLICATION	21
SECONDARY REVALIDATION	16
COPY CERTIFICATE	15
RE-REGISTRATION	2
NEW STANDARD APPLICATION	2

For year ending May 2025, IRC in Australia there is a small decline in boat numbers revalidating, however, it is leveling out (Figure 1). The new boat certificates including Secondary and Standard are showing a slight trend upwards which is good to see. Additionally, there were 37 Secondary Certificates and 2 Standard issued for the year.

It shows more work will have to go into building the fleet back to previous numbers.

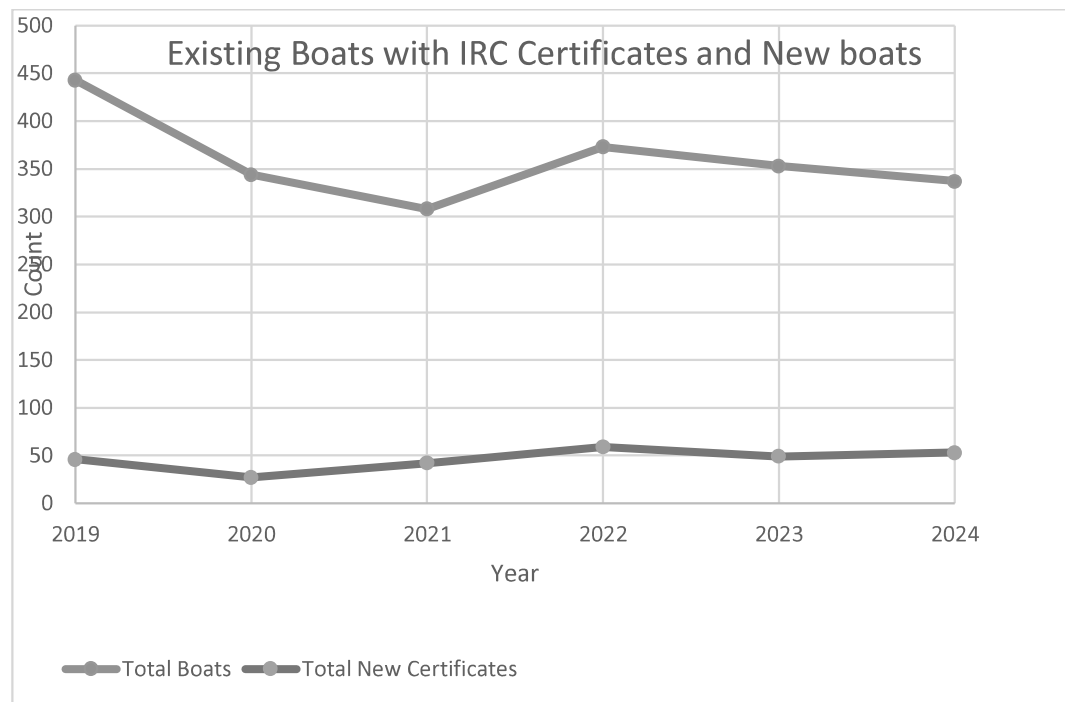


Figure 1

Our approach as the Rule Authority in Australia is to continuously improve the accuracy of measurements and the quality-of-service owners and boat managers experience from Australian Sailing Ratings Office. We are doing this by assist teams to optimise their boats within the rule's parameters, streamlining the application processes and supporting the use of Technical Committees for all events.

The Technical inspections of the yachts both during the season and pre-race is gaining more and acceptance by the fleet. With technical inspectors being welcomed onboard and the boats being well prepared. It has been pleasing to see the adoption of technical committees about the country.

Australian Sailing (AS) has now purchased a high-quality load cell which is being used around the country, our intention is to have all boats weighed on a common set of scales. This does come with multiple challenges when needing to move the load cell from one side of Australia to the other. Fortunately, two of the state bodies around the country have also purchased their own loadcells with the same class "A" accuracy and traceability of the calibration as the primary set held in Sydney. This acquisition has been applauded by the boat owners and managers and is raising the confidence in the weighing process generally.

Outlook for 2025/2026

Looking toward 2025, this year is expected to see an increase in boats joining the fleet as it is the 80th edition of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. The race is attracting a great deal of interest from teams around the country and internationally. It will be an impressive spectacle watching the boats charge down Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day.

Though the number of regattas around the country has not changed the entries and quality of the racing is as good as it has ever been. We are looking forward to safe and fair events for the 2025/26 year.

Chris Zonca

Rating Officer, Australian Sailing