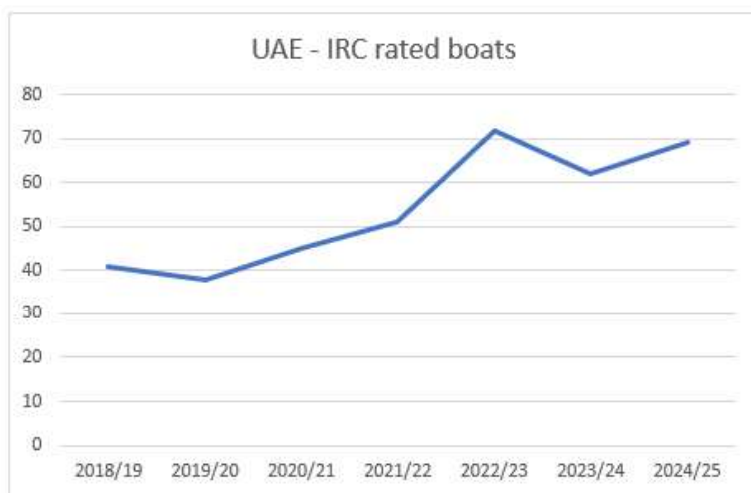


2025 IRC CONGRESS - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES REPORT

The IRC racing season in the UAE runs from October until May. Whilst we are geographically in the northern hemisphere, our certificate validity follows the southern hemisphere system.

Number of boats with IRC certificates



It is assumed that the total number of keelboats in the UAE is around 200 - 250. Around 140 are moored at the Dubai Offshore Sailing Club with the remainder spread out in marinas across the country.

The UAE IRC fleet numbers have shown a year-on-year increase of around 5% in 2025, which is largely in line with the growth trend over recent years.

Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
IRC rated boats	41	38	45	51	72	62	69

This number of certificates issued in 2025 represents somewhere between 20 - 25% of all sailing boats in the UAE, with around 40% of the boats moored at DOSC having an IRC certificate.

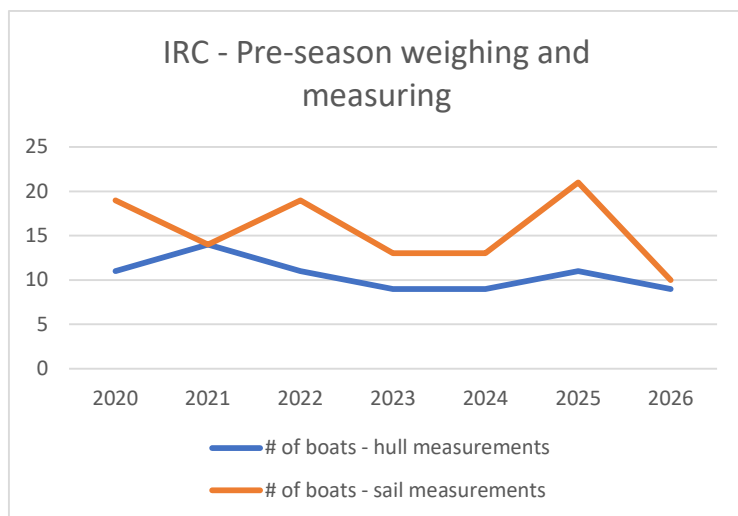
Recent initiatives:

- For 2025/26 we made all non-IRC racing white-sails only. If people want to race using spinnakers then they can join an IRC fleet. As with making the annual Dubai to Muscat race IRC only for monohulls in 2024, this helped to add some additional boats to the IRC fleet.

2024 IRC Middle East Regatta

This season saw the third IRC Middle East Regatta which was run over two days in December. There were thirty entries across four divisions. For Divisions 1,2 and 3 the first day had three inshore races followed by one inshore race and a coastal race on the second day. The IRC Cruiser division had a coastal race on both of the days.

Annual weighing and measuring:



Each September we run an annual IRC weighing and measuring weekend.

The number of boats that signed up over the last seven years are given below

At the time of writing we are still receiving renewals for the new season. Given the lower than normal demand for weighing and measuring, we expect that there will be a fall in the number of certificates issued in the UAE this season.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
# of boats - hull measurements	11	14	11	9	9	11	9
# of boats - sail measurements	19	14	19	13	13	21	10

2026 forecast

We start the season with a couple of headwinds that may adversely affect IRC numbers for the coming two or three years:

Offshore racing: Our headline annual offshore event is the Dubai to Muscat Race. We had seen good growth in numbers each year with 34 entrants taking part in 2026.

The Dubai to Muscat is IRC-only for monohulls, so is a good driver of IRC ratings for boats that don't want to take part in inshore racing.

Given recent developments and the associated challenges to navigation currently being experienced along the route, the date for the next edition of this race remains somewhat open right now.

2027's race has been postponed and won't be taking place during the current IRC rating period.



Inshore racing: The majority of our IRC racing has taken place in sheltered waters just outside the entrance to the Dubai Offshore Sailing Club.

The upper image shows the racing area in purple, which was approximately 2 miles by 5 miles.

... and then

In late 2025, plans were approved for a major land reclamation project to take place right in the middle of our traditional racing area.

The reclamation has already started with an exclusion zone (marked in yellow). When completed the new island will be about double its size.

Whilst we will be able to continue to race, our standard windward/leeward courses will have to take place to the west of the exclusion zone which means a start line that is considerably further than people are used to.

For those that know the Club, our grass lawn and beach has been requisitioned to create the new access road to the islands. This will mean that a new clubhouse will need to be constructed.

In essence there will be some considerable disruption in the next few years and so we may see an effect on fleet numbers during that time.

IRC feedback

Nothing major to report, just a request to bear with us for the next few years until we get back on to an even keel.

