



## International IRC Owners' Association

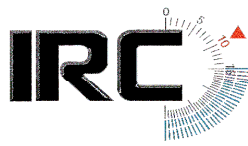
**To: ISAF Oceanic and Offshore Committee**  
**Re: IRC Activity and Developments in 2013**  
**From: Peter Wykeham-Martin, Chairman International IRC Owners' Association**  
**Date: 17 October 2013**

### 1. IRC Activity

The total number of boats issued with IRC certificates for 2005 - 2012 and to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 is shown below.

Country	Continent	Region	Certificate Year									
			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 to 31/8/12	2013 to 31/8/13
Great Britain	Europe	North	1878	1839	2043	2029	1806	1766	1702	1551	1526	1327
France	Europe	North	904	966	924	1074	937	975	1016	913	816	787
Italy	Europe	North	763	840	931	962	840	905	846	814	651	590
Australia	Oceania	South	527	578	570	528	535	544	525	498	361	323
Turkey	Europe	North	260	280	292	327	342	360	363	404	302	278
Ireland	Europe	North	389	402	429	455	443	423	386	355	355	315
USA	N America	North	549	589	610	611	488	464	380	324	306	252
Japan	Asia	North	1	33	89	122	221	258	276	298	277	303
Netherlands	Europe	North	58	54	152	162	172	146	138	149	148	146
Spain	Europe	North	934	155	164	165	167	159	169	134	129	120
Hong Kong	Asia	South	76	85	94	120	93	93	97	94	76	76
China	Asia	North	0	0	0	0	37	40	46	93	63	34
Greece	Europe	North	0	56	109	101	105	117	104	80	73	60
Thailand	Asia	South	50	48	49	64	72	80	77	74	24	21
Chile	S America	South						0	89	68	0	2
Canada	N America	North	22	24	23	32	51	60	82	67	67	54
Malta	Europe	North	49	42	47	65	64	66	62	65	59	51
Belgium	Europe	North	79	91	99	100	87	74	76	64	58	62
UAE/Gulf States	Africa	South	67	56	79	67	72	68	53	61	12	8
South Africa	Africa	South	91	91	84	76	63	55	49	52	30	30
Germany	Europe	North	16	24	39	64	65	53	56	47	42	44
Israel	Europe	North	27	27	21	23	23	35	34	43	35	32
New Zealand	Oceania	South	15	142	97	94	78	55	46	37	27	18
Singapore	Asia	South	29	45	41	41	37	29	35	32	26	25
Romania	Europe	North						18	32	31	30	23
Bulgaria	Europe	North				41	42	39	29	29	28	33
Uruguay	S America	South				47	45	45	27	27	0	12
Finland	Europe	North				13	34	40	37	22	22	18
Argentina	S America	South	0	50	90	37	27	24	13	16	0	0
Colombia	S America	South							21	16	2	0
Croatia	Europe	North				15	20	16	10	15	8	8
Malaysia	Asia	South	19	23	27	23	23	21	22	15	14	8
Iceland	Europe	North	18	14	15	14	12	13	10	13	13	12
Philippines	Asia	South	19	13	13	12	13	13	14	9	3	0
Switzerland	Europe	North				20	16	3	6	3	2	1
Norway	Europe	North				8	9	16	11	2	2	7
Sweden	Europe	North				28	37	37	19	1	1	0
Denmark	Europe	North						17	8	0	1	1
Portugal	Europe	North	127	133	95	101	56	23	14	0	0	0
World & Other (<5)	N/A	N/A	164	125	114	74	215	49	86	98	86	67
Totals:			7131	6825	7340	7715	7347	7199	7066	6614	5675	5148
As % of previous year:				95.7	107.5	105.1	95.2	98.0	98.2	93.6		90.7

Note 1: Certificate year runs from 1 January to 31 December in North countries and from 1 June to 31 May in the following year in South countries.



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Note 2: 2012 boat numbers are from January to August in North countries and from June to August in South countries.

Including both trial and amended certificates for these boats, the total number of certificates issued is significantly larger. Certificates are issued only to boats which re-apply each year.

The total number of IRC certificated boats at the end of 2012 was 6614 with 27 countries having fleets of 25 boats or more on 6 continents, thus continuing to satisfy the requirements of ISAF Regulation 12.2(e)(i). At the end of August 2013, 21 countries had fleets of 25 boats or more with the likelihood of at least a further 6 by the end of the year.

During 2013, the effects of the global economic situation have continued to be noticeable with a significant decline in the number of boats rated. Within this, it is apparent that the number of new boats is again significantly lower than historically.

While the world economic situation is clearly having an effect, we now consider that fundamental changes in both society and the sport of sailing are having an influence on the number of rated boats. Primary among these issues is a general shortage of crew, including younger crew members. Initiatives undertaken during 2013 include seminars at clubs and an experiment in GBR with 'Limited Validity IRC TCCs', ie ratings valid for a single event only.

We are however slightly encouraged by the growth during 2012 in generally newer IRC countries, CHN, JPN and URU. Very recently, and not shown by the data above, there has been significant interest shown in Brazil.

IRC continues to be used at a growing number of events around the world including the four original classic ocean races, the Fastnet, Sydney to Hobart, Newport to Bermuda, and Middle Sea Races. IRC was also again used for the RORC Caribbean 600 Race in February 2011.

### **2. IRC Congress**

The annual meeting of the IRC Congress was held in Paris, FRA on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Representatives of 15 IRC National fleets (AUS, BEL, BUL, BRA, CAN, FRA, GBR, GER, HKG, IRL, JPN, MLT, TUR, UAE, USA) were present. A representative of the International Maxi Association was also present.

Written reports were received from 12 countries and verbal reports were received from those present.

A report from the IRC Technical Committee was received and discussed.

The Congress considered 8 submissions from the IRC Technical Committee and a further 7 submissions from IRC Rule Authorities and National IRC Owners' Associations.

A lengthy discussion on the future of IRC was held with a number of issues emerging.

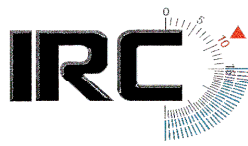
Full details of all of the above are included in the IRC Congress Minutes available from [www.ircrating.org](http://www.ircrating.org).

### **3. IRC Rules**

Rule changes resulting from submissions to the IRC Congress will be sent to ISAF shortly as required by ISAF Regulation 12.2 (d). A synopsis is included as an Appendix to this report.

### **4. Measurement**

No international measurer seminars have been held during 2013.



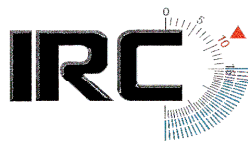
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4 applications for IRC IM were submitted for consideration in 2012 with all 4 applicants being appointed. One further application will be made in November this year. Discussions continue with the IM Sub-Committee towards establishing a few more IMs for IRC worldwide.

Based on our experiences to date, work has also continued in co-operation with others towards the continued development of the Equipment Rules of Sailing.

### **5. IRC Technical Committee**

The Technical Committee has been working this year on an agenda including many different subjects. Many of these are detail issues and will only result in minor changes to IRC Rules and/or rating calculations. Much of this work has been conducted by E-Mail with a formal 2 day meeting in London in July and a further meeting in Paris, GBR, in October.



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### Appendix

#### Changes to IRC Rules For 2014

The following Rule changes come into effect on 1st January 2014 (1st June 2014 for South certification year).

- Rule 8.2.1 is amended to clarify that short handed boats may be included in the overall results of a race.
- Rule 9.6 is amended to clarify from what point a rating protest is applicable.
- New Rule 11.3 is added to permit Rule Authority prescriptions to amend Rule 21.1.6 (b).
- Following a change to the RRS, a new IRC definition of Stored Power is added and referenced in Rule 15.
- Rules 13.1, 22.1 and 22.2 have been re-written to be clearer and more logical without changes in meaning.
- Rule 21.1.6 (b) is amended such that any boat carrying permanently installed systems to adjust either the mast foot or the forestay will now be permitted to use those systems while racing and will receive a rating tax.
- Rule 21.3.5 is deleted as redundant and potentially misleading in that it is repeated in other rules using different wording.
- The definition of LP is amended to formally incorporate IRC Notice 01/2013 clarifying the measurement of LP for boats that may set more than one headsail simultaneously.