

# ISORA – Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association



## ISORA 2025 - Report to the AGM by Hon. Sec. Stephen Tudor

Notice of this AGM was published and shared on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025. We have received interesting and varied feedback via the WhatsApp AGM Discussion group.

Every year of ISORA racing brings new challenges to the organisers, changing environment of race management, expectations and regulation compliance, choice of suitable racecourses, crowded calendars, varying requirements of the fleets, which are based in different home ports, and an aspiration to minimise boat movement and deliveries between races.

The traditional and recognised axis across the Irish Sea, has always included Dun Laoghaire, Holyhead, Pwllheli, Conwy, Wicklow, Howth, Douglas, and Liverpool, This has however been badly affected by the demise of walk on walk off facilities at Holyhead, this has limited the options for our cross-channel races.

Planning a series of races to please all competitors was again challenging but we did organise 16 races of varying complexity, challenges and including endurance! This comprised 7 Offshores, 4 Irish Coastal race and 5 UK Coastal races.

There were four series of races totalling 16 races being the Offshore Race Series, Coastal Series on both sides of the Irish Sea Class Series and the Double handed Series. This, of course, was on a basis of each race being a stand-alone race.

Congratulations to our numerous Champions and to all who competed. Thanks to our sponsors Viking Marine and Plas Heli for their continued support of our Coastal Races and, of course, to Musto our Main Sponsor.

We have seen a total of 36 competing boats, (43 in 2024 and 38 in 2023, and 39 in 2022) Down from 63 in 2019.

We have visited four ports this year and, as usual, we are extremely grateful for the work an input of all Clubs and their representatives who have made our racing possible. We hope that 2026 will allow us to visit other ports.

The ISORA Offshore Series for the Royal Dee Yacht Club's prestigious Wolf's Head was won by "Pata Negra", Andrew and Sam Hall, Overall ISORA Offshore Champion for 2025.

Pata Negra was chased hard throughout the series by Aurelia and Mojito and the series went down to the wire on the last race of the series.

IRC Class 2 – Indian, IRC Class 1 – Coquine, IRC Class 0 – Pata Negra, IRC Class DH - Katanca. Barry O'Connor

Our Coastal Series winners were Rockabill VII in Ireland, and Jackknife in Wales

ISORA is affiliated to the governing bodies; 'Irish Sailing' IS, 'RYA' and 'RYA Cymru Wales and we work closely with the Clubs.

We have embraced and invested in technology which allowed virtual race management, automated on-line entry and payment system, a dedicated web site. There has been some great

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PR for ISORA in Afloat.ie which we have copied to our website. The Crew Manager App has been a great addition to our management tools for safety and compliance.

The ISORA Race Management and Technical Committee have been communicating via WhatsApp as a group and as a method of sharing information when required. This has proved successful again in 2025 and enabled workload sharing with Mark Thompson and Peter Dunlop taking up many tasks and added responsibilities.

The races were run under the new ISORA governance regime where a “Race Risk Assessment” is prepared and submitted to the Race Officers, who must be registered with Irish Sailing or RYA. It is then the decision of the Race Officer to approve, cancel or amend the details of the race. This regime was adopted very successfully and operated with any significant hitches.

All races are viewed by the ISORA YB Tracking which has enabled the use of virtual waypoints and unmanned finish lines. Tracking would not be possible without the support of our sponsors Musto. Viking Marine and Plas Heli for the Coastal Series and our Race Sponsors, Jack Ryan Whisky, Hendricks Ryan and Tudor Estate Agents.

ISORA has been instrumental in providing shore bases for ‘Automatic Identification System’ (AIS), with support from Marine Traffic, providing better coverage of the Irish Sea area and making deliveries between ports safer.

The Racing Rules of Sailing, IRC rules and World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations - we are constantly monitoring changes in Rules and Regulations to ensure compliance. Changes will be highlighted on our web site and shared via our WhatsApp groups. We follow the changes to regulations so that as an OA we are compliant and that our skippers are aware of what they need to do to be compliant. Of note, we are seeing the use of the secondary IRC certificate for those that switch configurations between offshore and inshore races or full crew to double handed.

The 2025 series was again scored using the ISORA High Points System with more points awarded for more challenging races and more reward in larger fleets. This complex system is possible by using the superb results program ‘Sailwave’ which also enables publishing of results as competitors finish and for all the different fleets and classes.

**Finally, our thanks and appreciation for the hard work of all our volunteers including Mark, Peter, and Vicky and of course to the dedication and steady helm of our Chairman Peter Ryan – Thank you Peter**

**Real Sailors Race Offshore .....**

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