ISORA – Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association

ISORA 2026 - Report to the AGM by Hon. Sec. Stephen Tudor

Notice of this AGM was published and shared on 25th September 2026. 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 19 races of varying complexity, challenges and including endurance! This comprised 9 Offshores, 5 Irish Coastal race and 5 UK Coastal races.

For all 19 races scoring was for overall, class, YTC and double handed, and then for the 2026 Series – Overall, Coastal Series Overall and then Class scoring for all four series of races. 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.

We have seen a total of 38 competing boats, (36 in 2025, 43 in 2024 and 38 in 2023, and 39 in 2022) Down from 63 in 2019.

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 2026.

IRC Class DH – Loinnir - John Malone/Emmet Sheridan

IRC Class 2 – Indian, IRC Class 1 – ReQuest, IRC Class 0 – Pata Negra,

Our Coastal Series winners were Indian in Ireland, and Pata Negra in Wales

Our Young Sailor of the year for 2026 is Sam Hall - we thank Barry for organising and promoting this excellent award.

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 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 2026 and enabled workload sharing with Mark Thompson and Peter Dunlop taking up many tasks and added responsibilities.

The races were again run under the 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 has proved to work successfully and has operated without 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 2026 series was again scored using the ISORA High Points System with more points awarded for more challenging races and more reward in larger fleets. We were able to follow the decision of the 2025 AGM to score on the basis of the number of boats entered (not those that sailed).

This complex system of Series, Class, and Sub Series', is all possible because we use the superb results program 'Sailwave' who offers technical assistance, on the hoof, refinements and assistance.

Website / CMS

The ISOA.org website is currently hosted by HostGator and operates on Joomla 4. Following the successful recovery of the domain name, work has now commenced on a phased modernisation programme.

The first stage will be the migration of the website hosting to Jolt, providing access to PHP 8 and an up-to-date database environment. This move will establish a stable, secure, and fully supported platform for future development.

Once the hosting migration has been completed, the website will be upgraded from Joomla 4 to Joomla 5, with a subsequent migration to Joomla 6 when appropriate. These upgrades will ensure continued compatibility with modern web standards, enhanced security, improved performance, and access to new CMS capabilities.

Collectively, these improvements will provide a robust and sustainable platform for ISORA going forward, while creating opportunities to make greater use of the CMS for member services, content management, and future website functionality.

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 …….