

# ISORA – Going forward into 2025

## Race Schedule 2024:

7 Offshores (incl K2Q Race) – 5 Irish Coastal Races – 4 Welsh Coastal Races – 16 Races in total

## Background:

- The traditional role of ISORA was to organise 5-6 cross channel offshore races.
- Boat entries fell off to a low point in 2004.
- To attract new boats, coastal races were organised on both the Irish and Welsh sides. This initially proved very successful in attracting new entries and fleet numbers grew. Coastal racing is strong in Wales with fleet numbers increasing.
- Numbers of boats taking part peaked around 2019 when there were approximately 70 boats involved in some way with ISORA.
- Numbers have decreased since then. This year, 2024, we had 44 boats involved in some way with ISORA. However, while boat entry numbers were reasonably strong, there was a significant number of entered boats that did not race.
- The big iconic races are still attracting strong fleets – Round Ireland, D2D, K2Q, Fastnet etc.

## Possible reasons for the decline in boat entries:

- The loss of Holyhead marina was significant as it was an easy hub to run 50 mile races to and from. Those races were attractive to new entry boats.
- COVID changed how people run their working and family lives with reduced time available to take part in particularly deliveries and long races.
- The racing calendar is packed full of events with new events being created. This has diluted the number of boats taking part in each event.
- Lack of crew. There does not appear to be an emphasis in sail training to encourage younger sailors up into larger boats.

## What changes can we make:

- Continue as race schedule 2024.
- Revert back to organising 5-6 long offshore races only.
- Less Offshore races.
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- Less Coastal Races
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- Something completely different – what?