

ISORA – Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association



ISORA Survey 2016



ISORA Survey

The ISORA fleet increased to 54 boats in 2016 and it is important that we can obtain the thoughts and ideas of our past, present and future competitors so that we can arrange races that meet their expectations and provide exciting, fun but challenging series of races in accordance with the ISORA ethos.

An invitation to complete a survey was issued by the ISORA General Newsletter on 12th October and by onward invitation through AFLOAT. A reminder was issued on 22nd October and the Survey closed on Monday 24th October.

ISORA organisers have been delighted with the amount and quality of the responses:

Summary

Of the 115 completed responses 77% raced in 2016 and 53% considered themselves to be regular Offshore Racers and 30% considered themselves to be regular Coastal Racers. There were 40% Owner Skippers and 57% were crew. Disappointingly only 2% were shore crew or supporters.

61% have been racing in ISORA races between 1 and 5 years whilst 16% have been racing ISORA for over 10 years.

Communications

Looking at communications we were pleased to see that 65% were satisfied or very satisfied with the ISORA newsletters and web site 76% were satisfied or very satisfied with the ISORA Race Information 78% for the Race Reports, 83% for results and 90% for the YB Trackers.

We were very pleased with the ideas and suggestions on ways to improve the ISORA experience and these will be considered.

ISORA Ports

The results on accessibility and experience confirms the dominance of Dun Laoghaire as the hub for ISORA with 89% confirming that the port is accessible for boats and crews and 86% satisfied or very satisfied with the social and racing in that port. There is then a clear coastal axis from Howth to Greystones. The east west axis is to Holyhead 66% for accessibility and 48% for social and sailing and Pwllheli 46% and 53% respectively. Douglas scored 29% for accessibility and 50% for social.

It also noticeable that boats based to the north of the above-mentioned axis wish to race further north and boats to the south of the axis wish to race further south!

ISORA Races

85% think that our races are about right in length and there was no overall feeling that each race should have a beat (49% thought that there should not be a significant beat as opposed to 43% who thought that there should be a significant beat) and only 6% considered that a beat should be compulsory.

There was an overall acceptance of the use of virtual marks and Autohelms (conditionally) and 78% thought AIS should be compulsory.

There was overwhelming support of a long weekend and of the proposed Royal Dee Offshore Championship.

Scoring and Classes

86% thought the class split was about right and 82% were satisfied with the 'ISORA High Points Scoring System'.

Crew and Professionals

It is apparent from the results that more work is required to bring crews and skippers together and volunteers will be contacted to help bring this about together with arranging crew training.

There was no clear objection to professional sailors participating in ISORA with 49% thinking that they should be allowed or allowed conditionally and 19% don't mind. 31% thought that professionals should not be allowed. The comments received were varied from:

'ISORA should remain a true amateur set of events, allowing all boats and crew to compete at their own levels. This is something that I feel strong about'

to

'Let's get the best possible sailors racing ISORA. Don't make rules about problems that don't exist'

and

'Not on helm'

Stopped Racing in ISORA (or about to stop)

The responses to this section was low but there is an emerging pattern of changing work or family circumstances and *'been there done that'* being reasons why people stopped racing offshore.

The camaraderie, challenge and fun were main features of the 'likes' of ISORA and not being able to meetup after some races being one of the main dislikes.

For Non -Offshore Racers

Again, a low response but most were aware of the variety of racing available in ISORA and that the 'Coastal Races' offer an ISORA experience without having to cross the Irish Sea.

AGM and Prize-giving

Most were very satisfied or satisfied with all aspects of prizes and prizegiving although there were some suggestions about informal prizes at the post race gathering.

Most were satisfied with the AGM and preseason talks.

Can You Help with ISORA Administration?

There was a heartening response to the request for assistance with ISORA growing administration tasks. 29 contacted us to offer assistance. Thank you.

The full report follows and the issues raised in this survey will be considered by the organisers in setting the 2017 race schedule.

ISORA Survey

Introduction

It is important that race organisers arrange races that meet the competitors' expectations whilst maintaining the ISORA offshore ethos.

The ISORA fleet has grown with 54 boats competing in one or more race in the 12 race 2016 series.

With this growth, it is considered important that we can obtain and listen to the thoughts and ideas of our past, present and future competitors.

Competitor boats are located in many ports in Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man and England and consequently competitors, crew and skippers will not have many opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas for offshore and coastal racing in the Irish Sea catchment area.

Race organisers need to consider the different boat types and varying boat sizes competing in ISORA races with IRC numbers ranging from 1.152 to 0.831 - the equivalent of 16 minutes in an hour or almost 7 hours in a 24-hour race!

Despite this we are expected to deliver fair racing where each competitor has a real chance of winning. We have attempted to provide this by applying appropriate class splits and fleets not only arranged by size (IRC) but by type. We now need to know if the Class structure is correct and will be relevant to the competitors in 2017.

We also understand that some competitors only wish to take part in one race or in a mini-series within the overall series and we have attempted to provide prominence to each race result overall and by class and realise it is not all about the series overall win.

Over the years ISORA has embraced and developed racing management techniques which have enabled us to deliver a variety of races with multi class results. Again, we need to consider whether we have reached the right balance.

The need for a Questionnaire

For all the above reasons race organisers, have recognise the need to provide a forum and an opportunity for the sharing of ideas so that our racing continues to deliver an exciting, fun but challenging series of races in accordance with the ISORA ethos.

Main purposes of the survey:

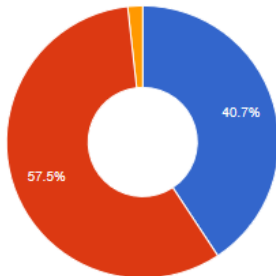
- To retain our existing competitors
- To expand our competitor base
- To understand why a competitor stops racing offshore

► About You

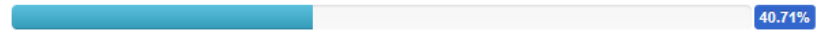
🗨 Total Responses: 0

► Are you a crew or skipper/owner

🗨 Total Responses: 113



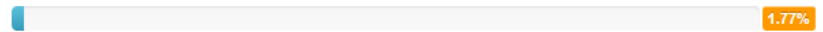
Skipper/Owner (40.71% / 46 votes)



Crew (57.52% / 65 votes)

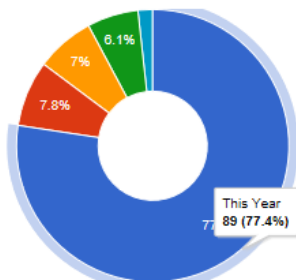


Shore Crew / Supporter (1.77% / 2 votes)



► When did you last compete in an ISORA race

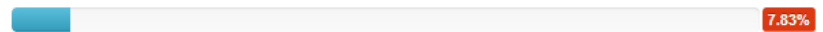
🗨 Total Responses: 826



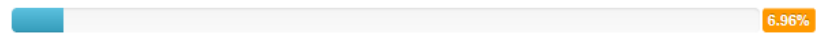
This Year (77.39% / 89 votes)



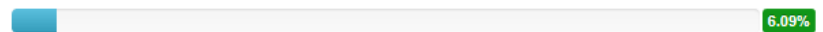
In The last 3 years (7.83% / 9 votes)



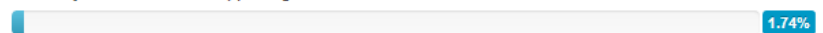
More than 3 years ago (6.96% / 8 votes)



Never - but wish to start (6.09% / 7 votes)



Never - just interested in supporting ISORA (1.74% / 2 votes)

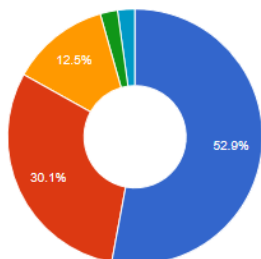


Comments

[View All Responses](#)

► Which of the following best describes you

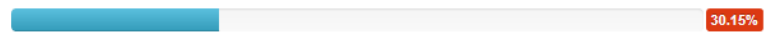
🗨 Total Responses: 136



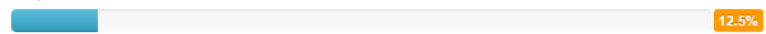
Regular Offshore Racer (52.94% / 72 votes)



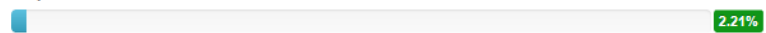
Regular Coastal Racer (30.15% / 41 votes)



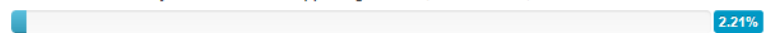
Very Occassional Offshore Racer (12.5% / 17 votes)



Very Occassional Coastal Racer (2.21% / 3 votes)

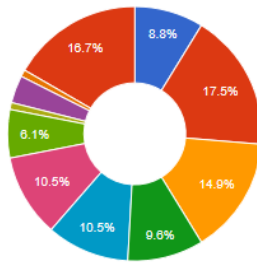


None of the above - just interested in supporting ISORA (2.21% / 3 votes)

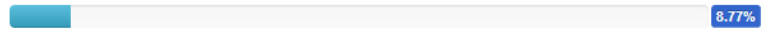


► How many years have you race in ISORA

🗨️ Total Responses: 114



none (8.77% / 10 votes)



one (17.54% / 20 votes)



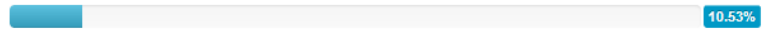
two (14.91% / 17 votes)



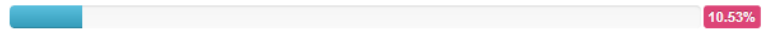
three (9.65% / 11 votes)



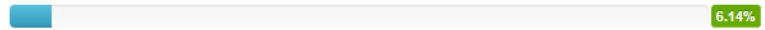
four (10.53% / 12 votes)



five (10.53% / 12 votes)



six (6.14% / 7 votes)



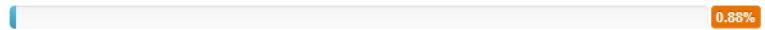
seven (0.88% / 1 vote)



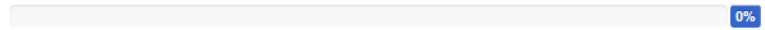
eight (3.51% / 4 votes)



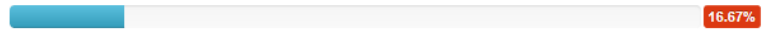
nine (0.88% / 1 vote)



ten (0% / 0 votes)



more than 10 years (16.67% / 19 votes)



► ISORA ashore – pre and post racing



Please tell us about your experience of ISORA before and after racing.

This section is about communications - we recognise the importance of sharing information and ideas with competitors and supporters

Please tell us how we can improve communications.

► Ashore - Communications

Total Responses: 648

[Toggle Charts](#)

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not at all satisfied and 5 being very satisfied) how would you rate the following?

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Newsletters	2	8	17	27	43	9
Web site	2	6	30	35	35	0
Race Information	2	7	14	37	45	2
Tracking	1	5	6	33	62	2
Results	2	4	10	30	61	2
Race Reports	7	3	12	41	44	2

Ashore - What would you like to see ISORA do differently / better?

Please tell us what would improve your experience of ISORA in preparing for your racing and after racing

[View All Responses](#)

Are there any aspects of ISORA that you consider could promote it better?

[View All Responses](#)

ISORA Ports

Total Responses: 0

The ports presently used for ISORA races are:

Dun Laoghaire, Howth, Greystones, Wicklow, Douglas, Holyhead, Conway, Liverpool, Abersoch, Pwllheli.

These ports presently mark the “territory” that ISORA races in.

How do you rate the following ports under the headings of: Accessibility (Boats & Crew) & Facilities (Sailing & Social)?

Ports Accessibility for Boat and Crew

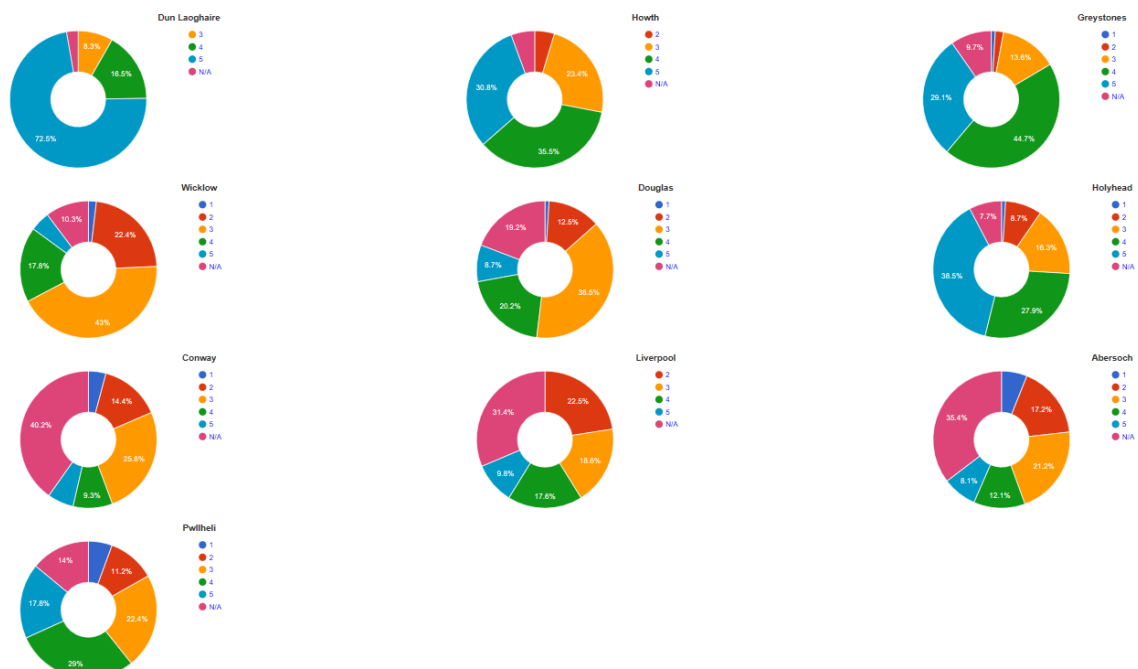
Total Responses: 1039 [Toggle Charts](#)

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not at all satisfied and 5 being very satisfied) how would you rate the following ports for Accessibility for Boats and Crew?

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Dun Laoghaire	0	0	9	18	79	3
Howth	0	5	25	38	33	6
Greystones	1	2	14	46	30	10
Wicklow	2	24	46	19	5	11
Douglas	1	13	40	21	9	20
Holyhead	1	9	17	29	40	8
Conway	4	14	25	9	6	39
Liverpool	0	23	19	18	10	32
Abersoch	6	17	21	12	8	35
Pwllheli	6	12	24	31	19	15

Ports Accessibility for Boat and Crew

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not at all satisfied and 5 being very satisfied) how would you rate the following ports for Accessibility for Boats and Crew?



► Ports - Sailing and Socials

Total Responses: 999 [Toggle Charts](#)

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not at all satisfied and 5 being very satisfied) how would you rate the following ports for quality of Sailing and Social ?

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Dun Laoghaire	0	1	10	23	69	4
Howth	1	3	12	33	40	13
Greystones	1	5	17	31	27	20
Wicklow	4	17	32	27	10	14
Douglas	2	6	19	26	22	21
Holyhead	9	15	18	41	8	10
Conway	2	13	15	11	2	50
Liverpool	2	11	18	25	6	35
Abersoch	5	6	13	14	11	45
Pwllheli	4	6	22	32	24	16

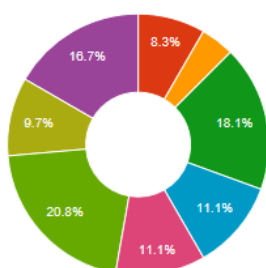
► Ports - Sailing and Socials

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not at all satisfied and 5 being very satisfied) how would you rate the following ports for quality of Sailing and Social ?

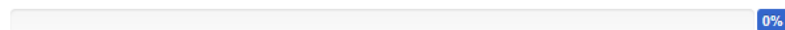


► 3. Are there any of these ports that you are not happy racing to or from?

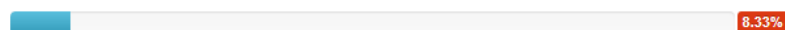
🗨 Total Responses: 72



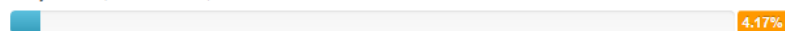
Dun Laoghaire (0% / 0 votes)



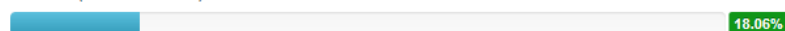
Howth (8.33% / 6 votes)



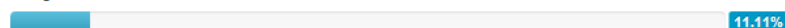
Greystones (4.17% / 3 votes)



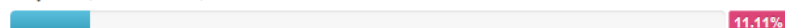
Wicklow (18.06% / 13 votes)



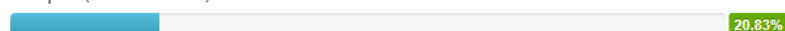
Douglas (11.11% / 8 votes)



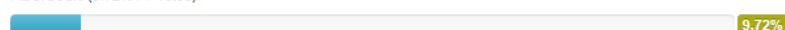
Holyhead (11.11% / 8 votes)



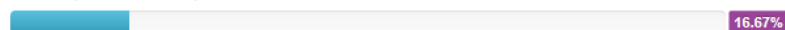
Liverpool (20.83% / 15 votes)



Abersoch (9.72% / 7 votes)



Pwllheli (16.67% / 12 votes)



Should ISORA visit another Port?

Are there other ports in the ISORA territory that you consider could be used as a base for the race?

Which one and why?

[View All Responses](#)

Port Co-ordinator

I am prepared to be a co-ordinator for the port suggested and my contact details are

[View All Responses](#)

General thoughts about the ISORA ports

[View All Responses](#)

ISORA Races

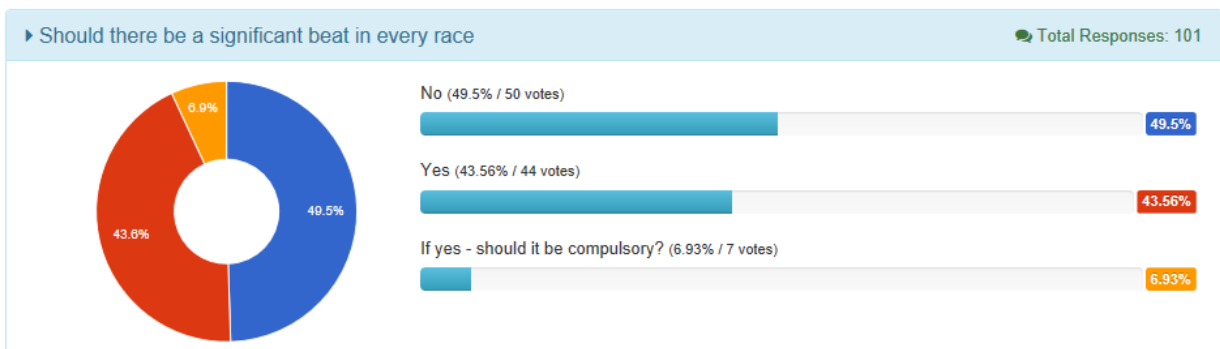
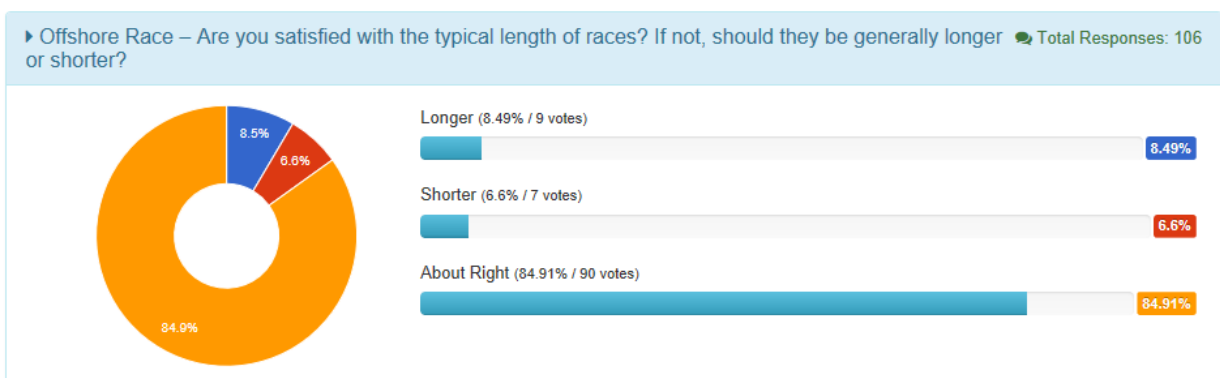
Presently courses and number of races are selected at the AGM in November of the previous year. The basis for the selection is generally to tie into existing events and regattas i.e. prepare boats for Round Ireland, feeder races to regattas. Course selection is also based on trying to finish one race in the same port at the next race starts to limit deliveries. Dates for races are selected to avoid clashing with other main relevant events. Length of race depends on weather conditions. The typical race is 60-100 miles.

Courses for Day Races are selected on the day to ensure that all boats get back in time to be able socialise.

On the social side crews usually gather on the evening before an offshore race in the start club and again at the finish if time allows. The social part of a Day Race happens after the race.

ISORA also supports the following races by scheduling their program to ensure crews qualify:

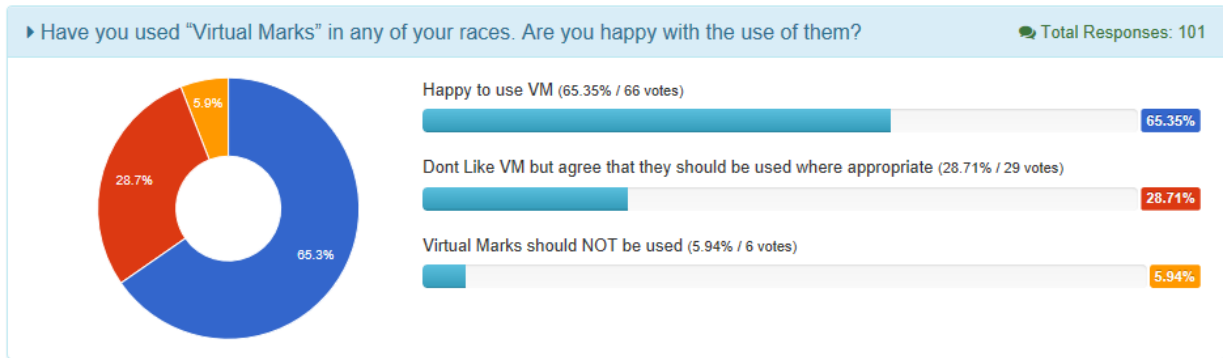
- Round Ireland Race
- Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race
- Fastnet Race
- Lyver Race
- Midnight Race



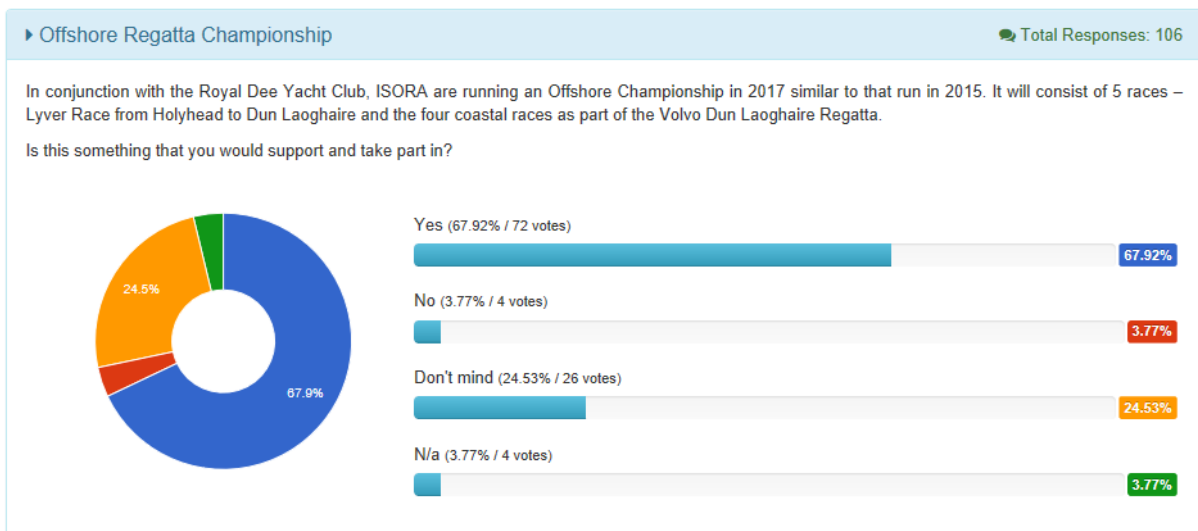
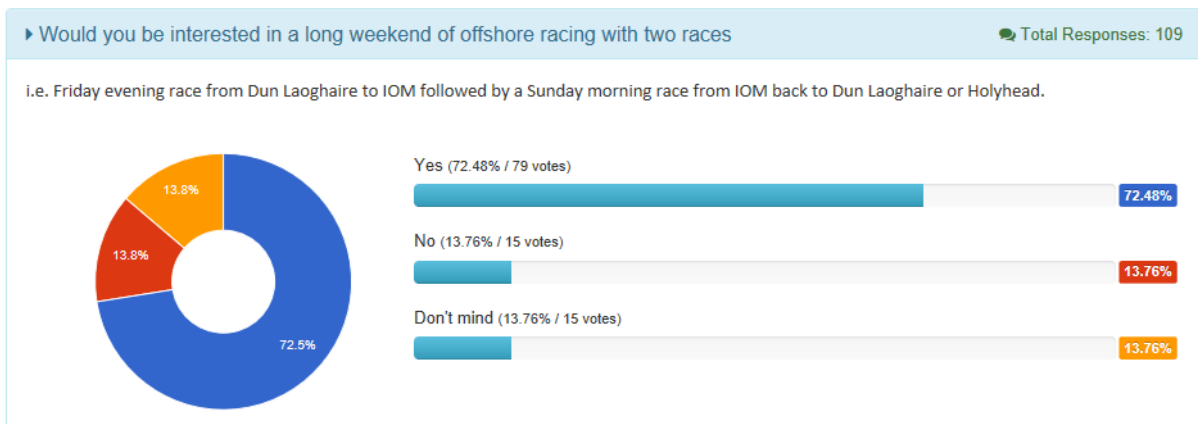
Tell us in a few words how we can improve on the races

[View All Responses](#)

Virtual Marks



Long Weekends and Offshore Championships



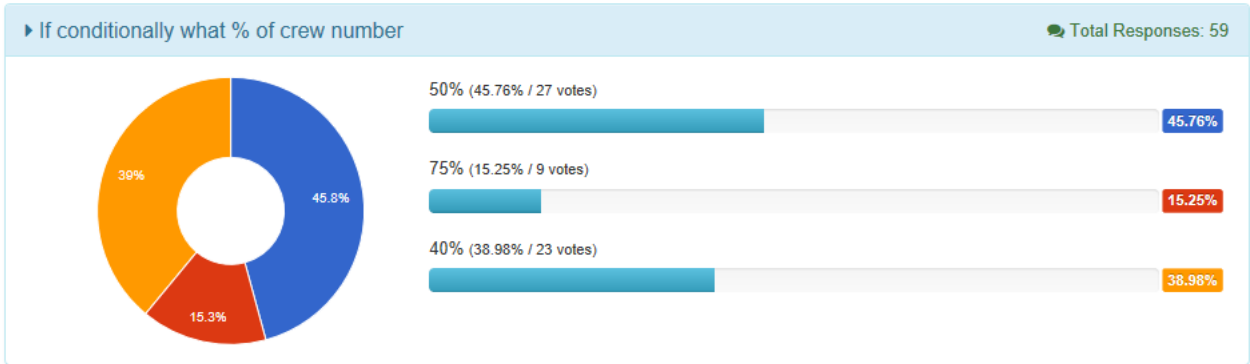
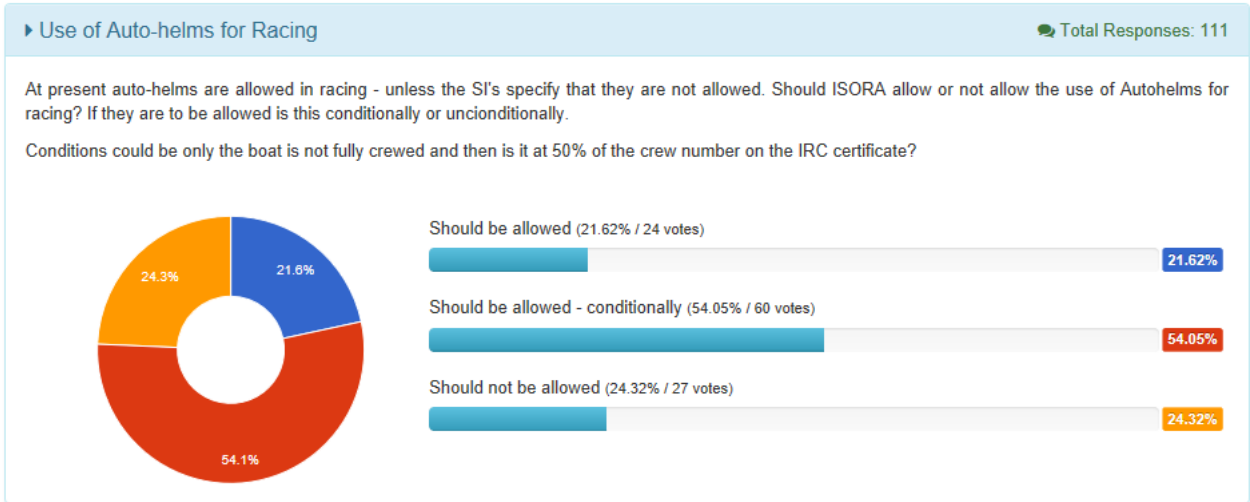
Thoughts on an Offshore Regatta Championship

[View All Responses](#)

Is there any other format of offshore coastal racing that should be considered?

[View All Responses](#)

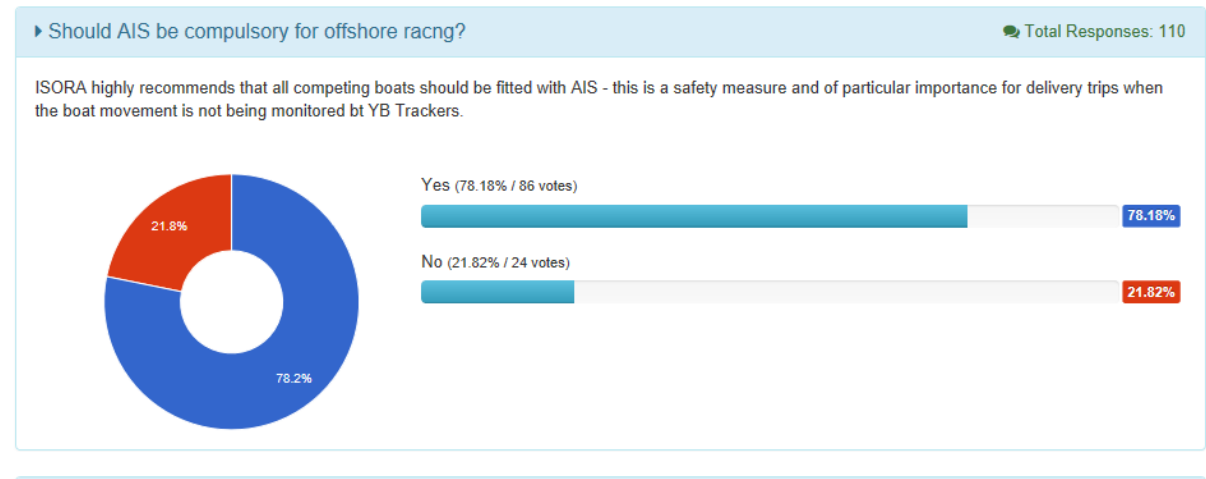
Auto Helms



Or another % or another condition

[View All Responses](#)

AIS



► Scoring and Classes



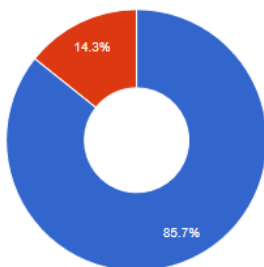
There are presently two classes in ISORA - Class 1 and Class 2 with a split at 1.010.

Additionally these two classes are then split into 'Gold' and 'Silver' Fleets where the Silver Fleet boats have a Hull Factor 7.8 or less and DLR 200 or greater. These are typically older or heavier boats.

The Class Split is assessed every year and we now need to consider the split for 2017.

► Is the Class Split correct ?

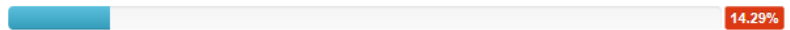
💬 Total Responses: 98



Yes - about right (85.71% / 84 votes)



No - needs to be reassessed (14.29% / 14 votes)



Reassessment of Class split

[View All Responses](#)

▸ Scoring System

🗨️ Total Responses: 96

ISORA has used the High Points Scoring System since 2011 where the more difficult races are weighted with a factor of 1.3 for cross channel Races over 100 miles. 1.2 for cross channel races less than 100 miles. 1.1 for the Night Race and 0.9 for day races.

A win in a large fleet will score better than a win in a small fleet using the CHIPS 3 formula.

Is this correct

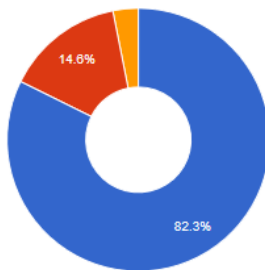
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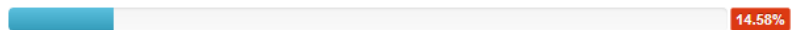
Is this correct



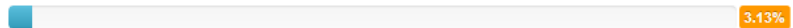
Satisfied with the present system (82.29% / 79 votes)



Satisfied but adjustments required to the weighting (14.58% / 14 votes)



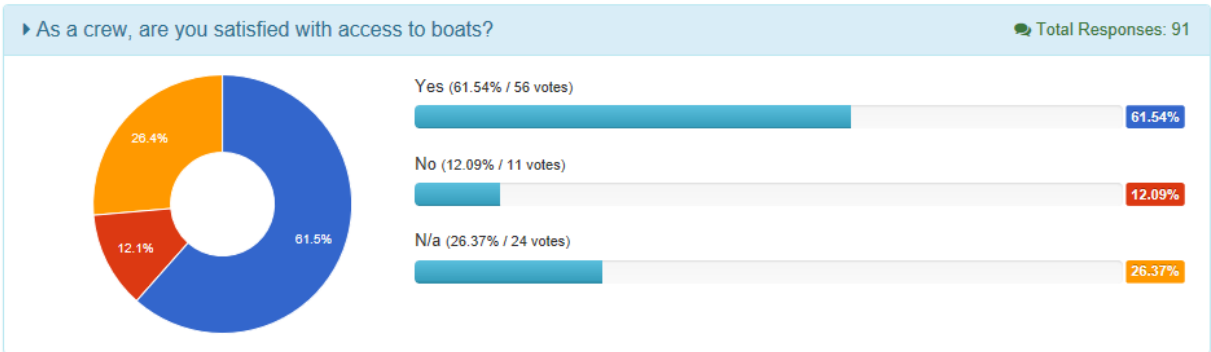
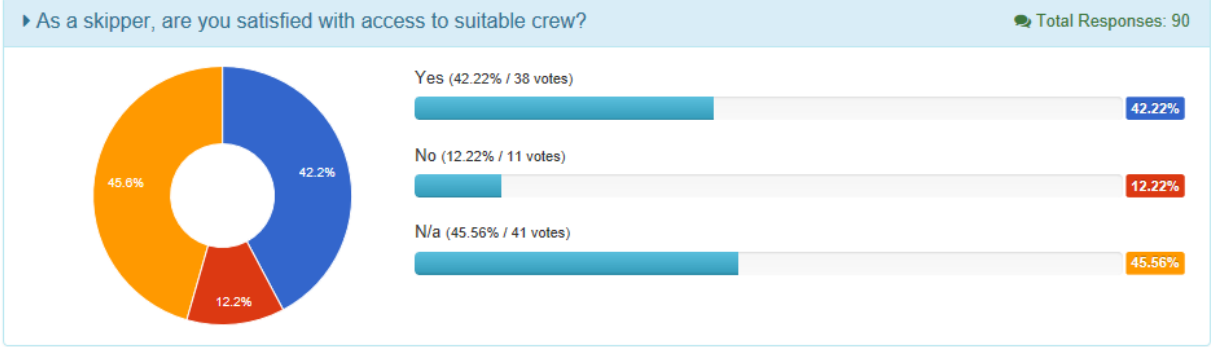
Not satisfied (3.13% / 3 votes)



Please tell us what you think is right/wrong with the present system

[View All Responses](#)

Crew and Professionals

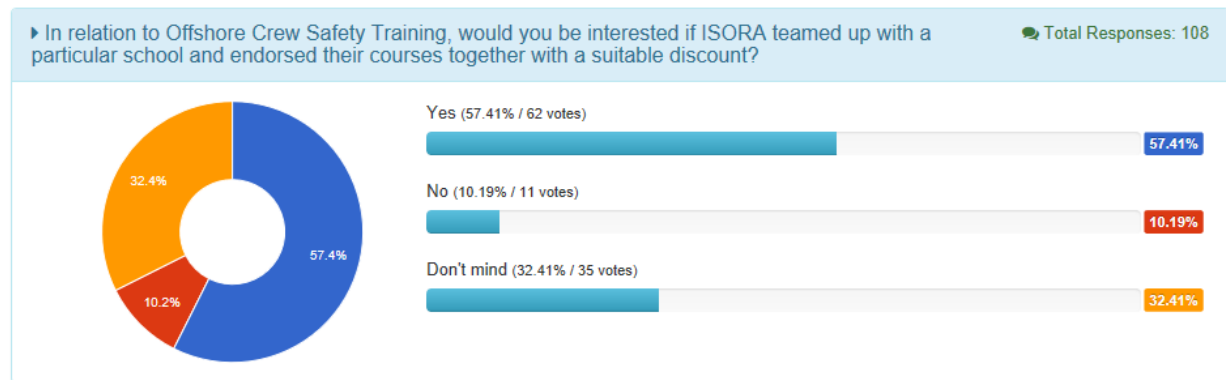


How can we improve the communication between skippers and potential crew?

[View All Responses](#)

In our pre-season talks are there any issues that you would consider important to deal with?

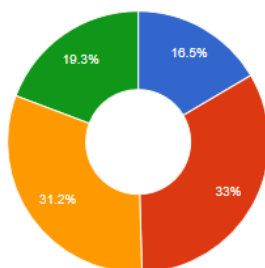
[View All Responses](#)



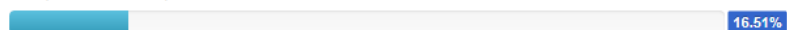
► Should Professionals be allowed in ISORA racing

🗨 Total Responses: 109

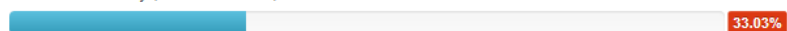
Professionals are defined by ISAF



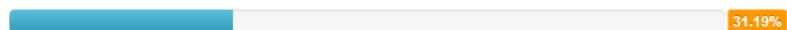
Yes (16.51% / 18 votes)



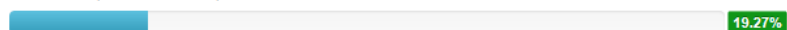
Yes - conditionally (33.03% / 36 votes)



No (31.19% / 34 votes)



Don't mind (19.27% / 21 votes)

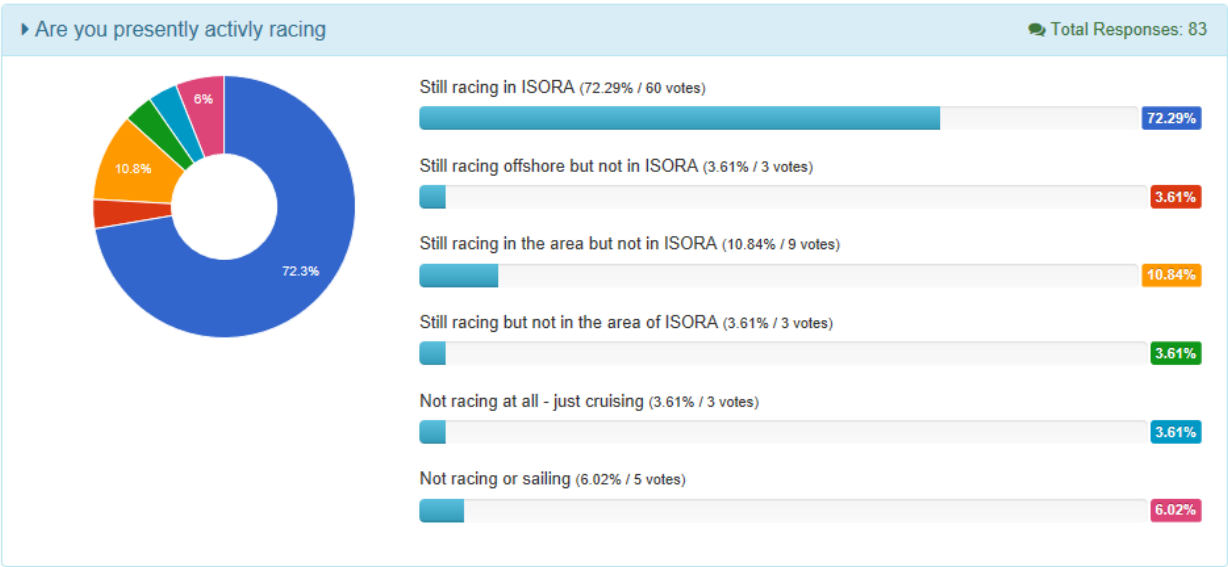


Your Opinion on allowing/not allowing professional sailors

[View All Responses](#)

Stopped Racing in ISORA (or about to stop)

This section is for those who have raced in ISORA but have now stopped



If you no longer race in ISORA what was the main reason for stopping? Total Responses:

[View All Responses](#)

What did you like best about ISORA?

[View All Responses](#)

What did you **not** like about racing in ISORA?

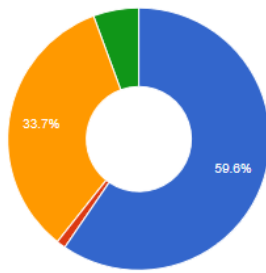
[View All Responses](#)

What do you miss about racing in ISORA?

[View All Responses](#)

► Do you follow ISORA on their website or the races with the trackers?

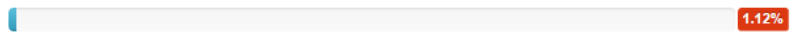
🗨 Total Responses: 89



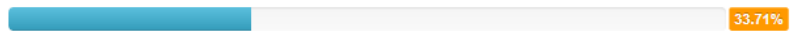
Yes - I look at the web site (59.55% / 53 votes)



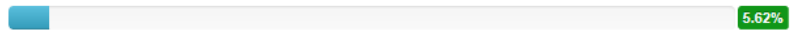
No - I don't look at the web site (1.12% / 1 vote)



I do look at the race tracking system (33.71% / 30 votes)



I don't look at the race trackers (5.62% / 5 votes)

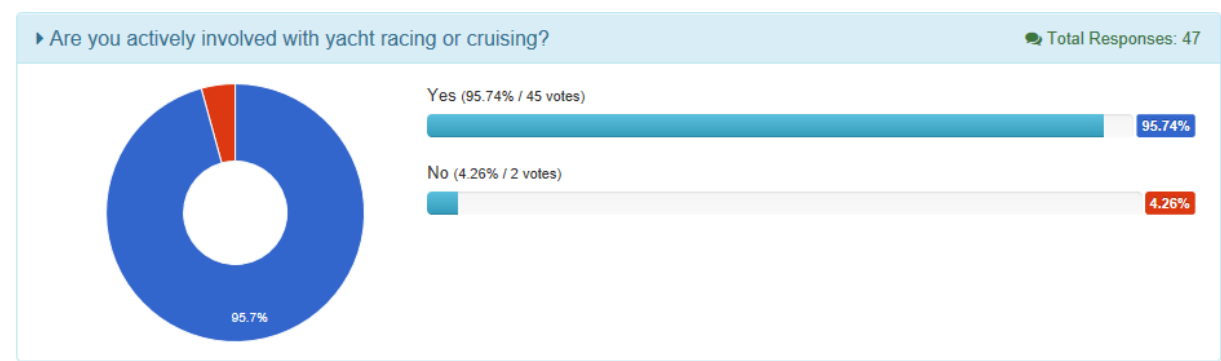


Do you consider that you might return to ISORA racing? If so, how can you be encouraged?

[View All Responses](#)

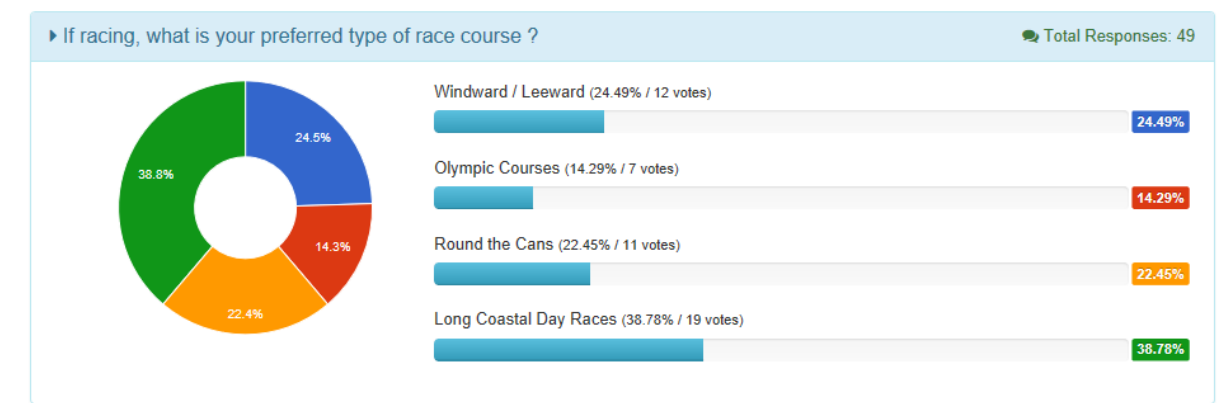
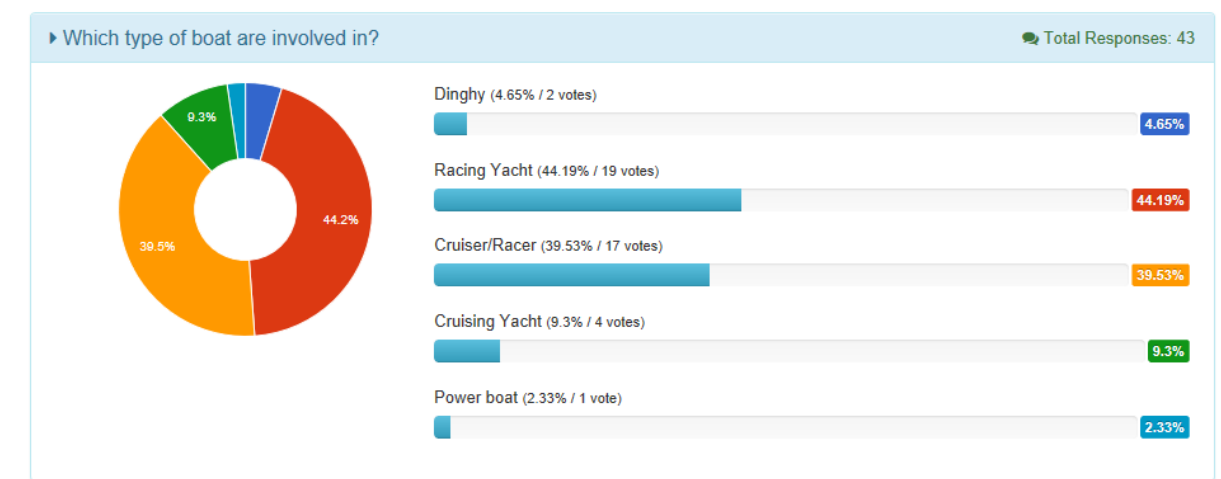
For Non -Offshore Racers

This section is to assess why boats will not race offshore



How often do you race of cruise?

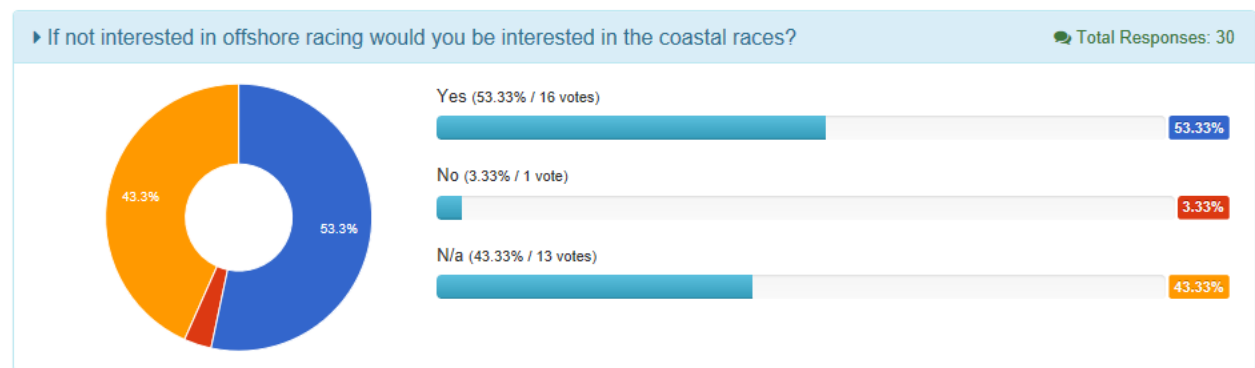
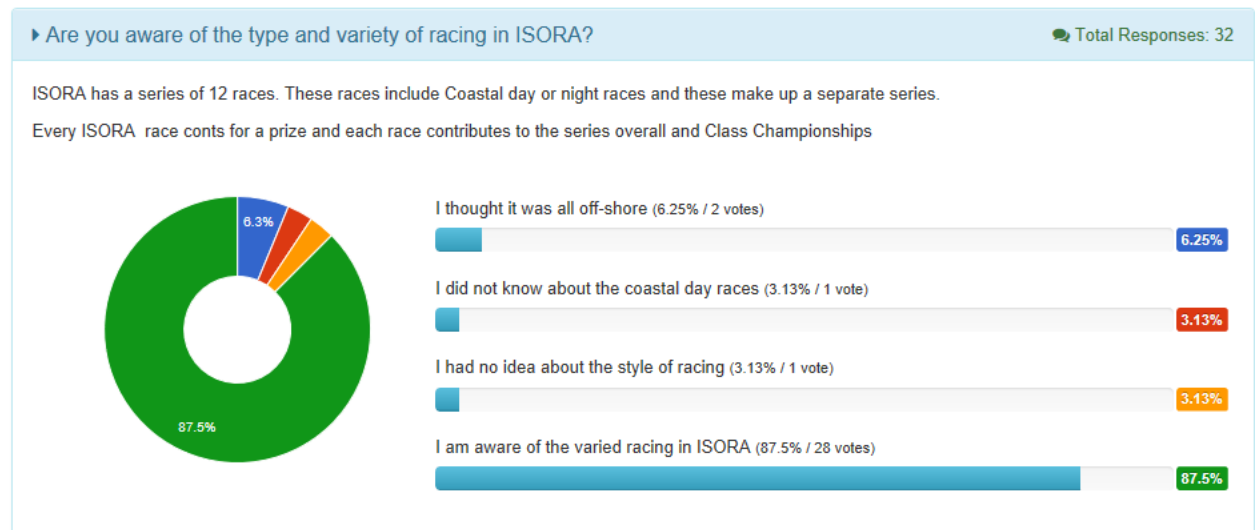
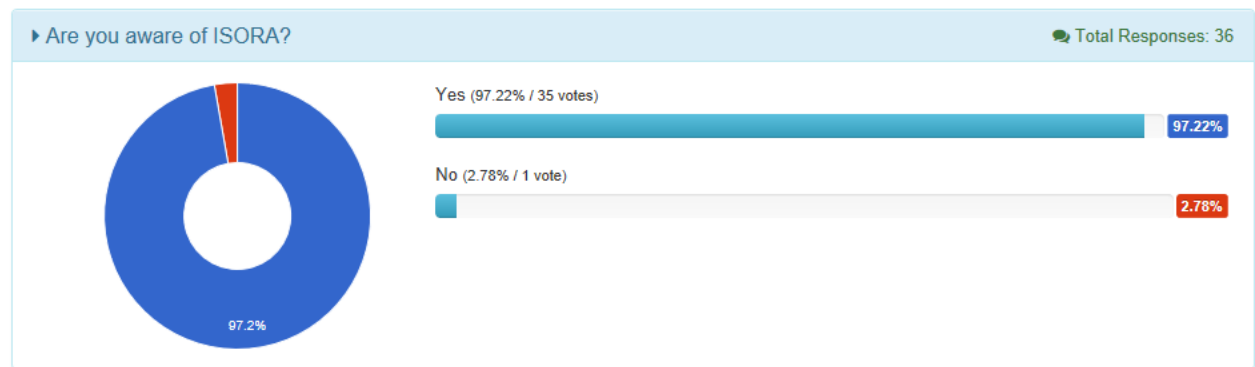
[View All Responses](#)



If cruising, how far and how often do you travel?

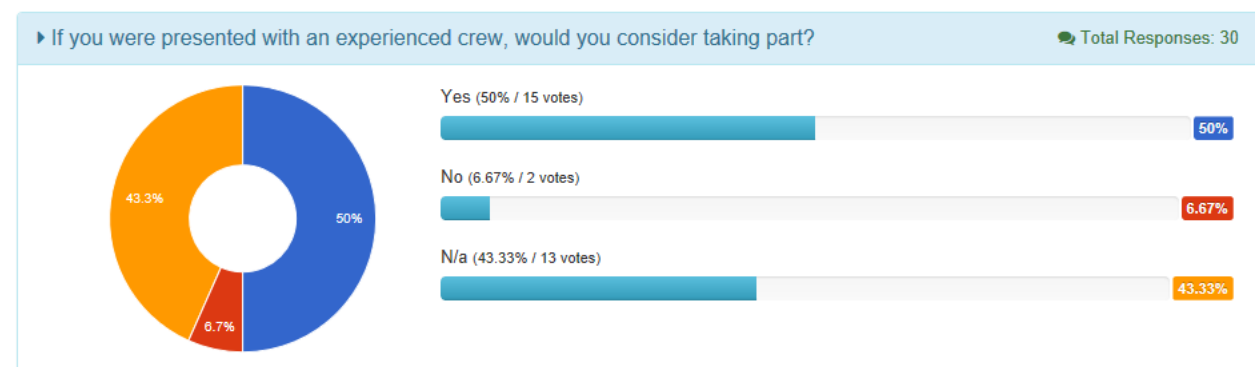
[View All Responses](#)

Are you aware of ISORA?



If not interested, what is the most relevant reason why you would not take part?

[View All Responses](#)



► Prizes, Prize-giving, AGM and Social



Prizes and Prize-giving

ISORA is a non-profit making association. All entry fees and sponsorship money are used in the provision and running of the YB trackers and in the provision of prizes.

ISORA have a trove of trophies which they give out each year. All overall race winners will be awarded a trophy, a race winners jacket and a glass. Prizes are generally given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in Overall, Class 1, Class 2 and Silver Class. Prizes for the full Series include Trophies and jackets for the Overall and Class winners and glass plaques for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in Overall, Class 1, Class 2 and Silver Class.

Pre Season Talks

ISORA tries to hold pre-season talks and socials mainly in Dun Laoghaire. This acts as a “wake-up” call for skippers and crew.

ISORA Chairman attempts to match crew with boats during the season in an ad hoc way. The ISORA Facebook page is very active in bringing skippers and crew together. Introduction are also made at the many social events

► AGM Prizes and Prize-giving

🗨 Total Responses: 363

[Toggle Charts](#)

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not at all satisfied and 5 being very satisfied) how would you rate the following?

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Prizes	2	2	3	18	46	23
Prize-giving	2	2	5	19	35	29
AGM	1	2	5	17	19	46
Pre Season Talk	1	3	7	17	10	49

Have you any suggestions on any of the above?

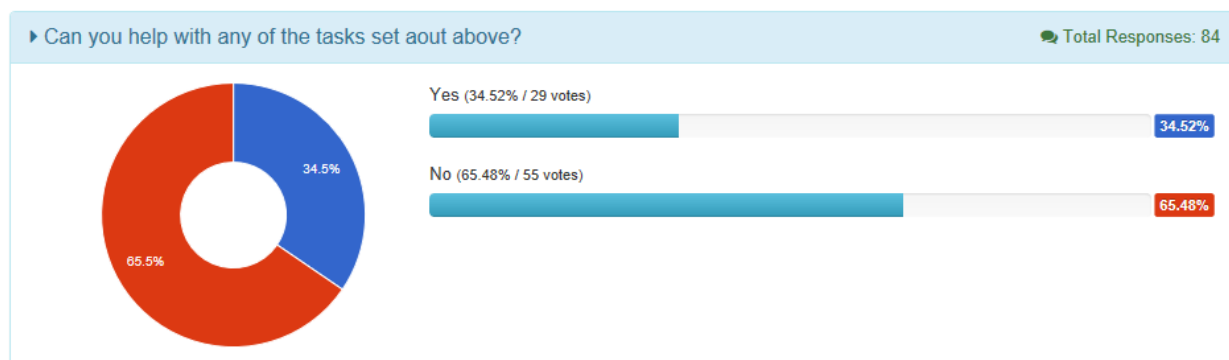
[View All Responses](#)

ISORA Administration

During the year, there are times when a huge amount of time is given by few in the running of ISORA. It includes the following:

- Keeping website up to date
- Issuing Newsletters
- Issuing amendments prior to races
- Day-today Communication with those skippers who are taking part in a particular race.
- Liaising with YB to ensure that the correct course is set up on the tracker viewer and that the actual boats racing are identified.
- Organising people to provide starts.
- Producing results shortly after the race finishes and dealing with comments /revisions.
- Allocating and activating YB trackers to specific boats and ensuring they receive them, sometime at the start line on the water!! Retrieving the YB trackers after the race and ensuring they are deactivated.
- Maintaining the YB trackers, ensuring all the units are working properly, have sufficient battery power and have the latest version of any firmware issued by YB.
- Compiling the prize lists at year end and coordinating the personalised engraving / embroidery of glasses, jackets and trophies. Recovery of all trophies in sufficient time to allow engraving for the following dinner.
- Maintenance of all trophies to ensure they are properly cleaned and repaired if necessary.
- Organising the Annual AGM and Dinner.
- Manage all entry fees and sponsorship and issue payments to all creditors.
- Seek and maintain all sponsors.

Nobody working for ISORA claims any expenses. It is totally voluntary. Can you help us?



I can help - with >>>

[View All Responses](#)

My Contact details (not compulsory)

[View All Responses](#) Edited to remove contact details
