

### **Working Party - Universal Measurement System (UMS)**

A Supporting Paper from the Chairman of the Oceanic and Offshore Committee recommending the creation of a Working Party under the Oceanic and Offshore Committee to formalize UMS.

#### **Proposal**

Create a UMS Working Party under the Oceanic and Offshore Committee. The goals of the UMS Working Party are:

- Coordinate the continuing work to extend the UMS to incorporate all measurements used by any World Sailing Recognized or International Rating System.
- Keep the ERS Working Group briefed on progress on the UMS.
- Propose a formal approach for future changes and management of the UMS.
- The members of the UMS Working Group will include representatives of the three largest rating offices in the World, and of each of the World Sailing Recognized or International Rating Systems. The initial members are listed below. All of these individuals attend the Annual World Sailing meetings already, and have agreed to serve.
  - Jason Smithwick, representing IRC and the RORC Rating Office
  - Nicola Sironi, representing the ORC rule and the ORC
  - Nathan Titcomb, representing the US Sailing Offshore Office

#### **Current Position**

The UMS project has until now been an independent project pursued by IRC/RORC, ORC, and US Sailing working together, with the Oceanic and Offshore Committee Chairman monitoring. The three rating offices and the Chairman of the Oceanic and Offshore Committee have discussed the significant progress and agree that it is time for the UMS to become a more formal part of World Sailing.

#### **Reasons**

1. There have been in excess of 25 different measurement and rating systems used throughout the history of offshore racing. Most of these rating systems have used their own particular sets of measurements of the racing yacht, rig, and sails. The fact that a unique measurement approach has been tied to each particular rating system has made it

difficult for yachts to race under different rating systems. In the past, entering a race under a different rating system generally required an expensive and time-consuming re-measurement of the yacht.

2. The goal of UMS is to separate “measurement” from “rating calculation” and establish an agreed-upon common set of measurements to be used by any World-Sailing-Recognized or International Rating System. It is the view of the offshore racing community that having a common measurement system will allow yachts to more easily travel and race in different regions, and will make it easier for the existing rating systems to work together in the interest of the sport, for example potentially holding joint events such as World Championships.
3. Note that not all UMS measurements are used by any particular World-Sailing-Recognized or International Rating System, but all measurements used by any Recognized or International Rating System are intended to be included in the UMS.