Offshore Special Regulations

OSR 4.26 Storm & Heavy Weather Sails

A submission from the Royal Netherlands Watersports Association

Purpose or Objective

To release the obligation when there are only two crewmembers to have a storm trysail on board for category 2 races.

Proposal

Amend regulation 4.26.2 d) by adding a new 4.26.2 d) vii for MoMu2 and by renumbering MoMu3 in 4.26.2 d) viii, as follows hereunder:

MoMu0,1,2 4.26.2 d) A storm trysail (or rotating wing mast if suitable) with:
MoMu0,1,2 4.26.2 d) i area of 17.5% mainsail hoist (P) x mainsail foot length (E)
MoMu0,1,2 4.26.2 d) ii For sails made after 2011: The storm trysail are calculated as (0.5 x leech length x shortest distance between tack point and leech)
MoMu0,1,2 4.26.2 d) iii no headboard
MoMu0,1,2 4.26.2 d) iv no battens
MoMu0,1,2 4.26.2 d) v sail number and letters on both sides, as large as practicable
MoMu0,1,2 4.26.2 d) vi in the case of a boat with an in-mast furling mainsail, the storm trysail shall be capable of being set while the mainsail is furled

MoMu2 4.26.2 d) vii when there are only two crewmembers, either a storm trysail as defined in OSR 4.26.2 d), or mainsail reefing to reduce the luff by at least 50%

MoMu3 reefing to 4.26.2 d) viii either a storm trysail as defined in OSR 4.26.2 d), or mainsail reduce the luff by at least 40%

MoMu4 weather 4.26.2 e) Either mainsail reefing to reduce the luff by 12.5% or a heavy-weather jib as defined in 4.26.2 a) (or heavy-weather sail in a boat with no forestay)

Current Position

As above, without 4.26.2 d) vii
Reasons

1. With only two persons on board rigging the storm trysail when approaching bad weather, however with the wind already freshening to gale force and the seas building, is a hazardous operation. Reefing with two persons is a much more easier, better controllable and safer option.

2. Self sufficiently in a category 2 race with two crewmembers on board is better guaranteed with an easy and always ready to be reefed main than with a trysail that first has to be rigged.

3. However, in category 0 and 1 races where boats must be capable of withstanding heavy storms and serious emergencies a storm trysail on board can be of important use for the only two crew on board. That's why this change only proposed for category 2 races.