Offshore Special Regulation 3.29.1 – Communications Equipment, AIS

AIS antenna on masthead

A submission from Sten Edholm, Special Regulations Sub-Committee

Purpose or Objective
To propose an additional paragraph to OSR 3.29.1 m, n and o in order to achieve better AIS performance.

Proposal
New text
3.29.1p AIS antennas shall be mounted on top of the main mast and shall be active at all times when racing. *******

Current Position
None

Reason
There is a substantial difference in range if an AIS antenna is mounted on deck or on the masthead. There are today reasonably inexpensive splitters that allows the AIS to use the VHF antenna.

If a yacht has an AIS system installed, it should be active at all times, as the maritime regulations require each boat to do whatever possible to avoid any incidents.

This follows also the recommendations from the US Sailing Report on the Rambler accident at Fastnet Race 2011.