



**Northwest IRC Fleet  
PO Box 1420  
Anacortes, Washington 98221**

March 24, 2013

**RE: NEWLY FORMED NORTHWEST IRC FLEET**

Dear Racer:

As you know the big-boat fleet here in the Northwest has been embroiled in a ratings controversy which has hurt our fleet as owners choose to spend their time elsewhere. Contrary to what we are being told, the latest set of ratings has neither been reviewed nor have they been endorsed by US Sailing. US Sailing will be formally clarifying this shortly.

In the wake of this continuing controversy we as a group of owners need to step up and take control of our racing to ensure a fair & open process. A group of us has recently formed an IRC racing fleet and **we invite you to join us**. While no rating system is perfect after extensive review we decided that we wanted to move to IRC for the following reasons:

- 1. It is professionally managed & independent**
- 2. It is simple & inexpensive to rate boats (\$150 for a 40' boat)**
- 3. It fairly treats a wide variety of boats**

As a result I am formally asking you to join us and participate in IRC events this year. We already have a commitment from Van Isle 360 race organizers for an IRC start for the big boats and we are in discussions with the Swiftsure, Seattle Yacht Club (Tri-Island & Grand Prix) and Southern Straits (2014) race committees for the same.

We have setup a web site ([www.nw-irc.org](http://www.nw-irc.org)) where you can obtain more information about racing under IRC and learn how you can get your boat rated. The process is very similar to what you know and is relatively inexpensive. At present we are planning to require standard (non-endorsed) certificates which further simplifies the process and reduces costs.

It is our sincere hope that by making the move to IRC that we can rebuild our diminishing big-boat fleet and increase the caliber of our racing. Please feel to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin P Welch', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Kevin P Welch  
Northwest IRC Fleet Captain, ex officio  
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