

WRS COURSE PLANNING TOOL

PROPOSAL

Public release of the course planning interface/tool used for Weather Routing Scoring (WRS), allowing registered users (e.g. race organizers, measurers, rating offices, and interested sailors) to:

- Upload proposed offshore race courses with waypoints, exclusions, and class start times.
- Upload GRIB-data (minimum wind, current – can be in different files) to use specific local forecasts in special sea areas
- Download GRIB-data (minimum wind, current – can be in different files) used for the PET routing/calculation
- Option to replay the race (to get a comparison for the forecast and the real race, maybe also with measured data).
- Preview routing assumptions and predicted elapsed times (PETs) using standard ORC polar data and forecast models.
- Estimate expected Time-on-Time (ToT) or Time-on-Distance (ToD) coefficients in advance.
- Generate exportable data for race planning, communication, or simulation purposes.

The interface may be provided under a "view-only" or "planning mode" access tier separate from the official scoring.

RATIONALE

Currently, the Weather Routing Scoring (WRS) system provides highly valuable and accurate scoring for offshore races based on pre-race forecast modeling. However, access to the WRS setup and tools — including course submission and PET estimation — is restricted to internal ORC staff or selected individuals. This limits organizers' ability to understand, explain, or optimize the scoring process before an event.

With the growing adoption of WRS and increasing transparency demands from competitors, a publicly available Course Planning Tool would:

- Improve race organizers' ability to prepare and validate courses under realistic routing assumptions.
- Enhance transparency and competitor confidence in WRS-based scoring.
- Support training and simulation use for national authorities and clubs seeking to adopt WRS.
- Align with ORC's mission to promote fair, science-based racing through accessible technology.

The tool could be made available via the ORC Sailor Services platform with appropriate limitations (e.g. no official rating generation or scoring submission) to preserve data integrity while expanding educational and preparatory access.