

DECLINED SAIL INVENTORY

PROPOSAL

The current ORC VPP and certificate regulations calculate a boat's handicap based on its maximum measured sail dimensions and the maximum allowed number of sails. While this ensures equity at the elite level, it creates a significant financial barrier and technical penalty for club-level racers and budget-conscious boat owners.

Many owners cannot afford to purchase or maintain a full inventory of specialized sails (such as multiple asymmetric spinnakers for different wind angles, or code zeros). Under the strict current rules, a boat carrying fewer sails than its maximum class limit is mathematically penalized as if it possessed the full, optimized inventory. Furthermore, owners are discouraged from using older, heavier, or "delivery" sails for heavy weather protection because every sail change requires a costly certificate revision.

To promote sustainability and reduce the cost of racing, we propose that ORC HQ introduces a "Declined Sail Inventory" (DSI) option in the certificate application. This would allow an owner to officially declare and lock a reduced sail inventory for the season (e.g., declaring a maximum of only 1 spinnaker instead of 3, or opting out of lightweight headsails). The VPP should be updated to credit the boat fairly for the performance loss of operating with a restricted inventory.

RATIONALE

To significantly lower the financial barrier to entry for club racers, encourage the sustainable use of existing sail inventories, and prevent budget-limited boats from being unfairly penalized by theoretical VPP maximums.