



Start of the Lyver Race 2009:





Introduction to Offshore Racing.

ISORA

Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association

Chairman – Peter Ryan

National Yacht Club

7th April 2011

Introduction - Peter Ryan

- **Chairman of ISORA.**
- **Sailing in ISORA for over 30 years. Took part in five Round Ireland races and four Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Races.**
- **The purpose of my talk tonight is to try and encourage those boats considering going offshore to do so and to join ISORA. I will attempt to outline the type of races we do, the places we go to and to try and dispel any myths about those places.**
- **The contents of this talk are my views, thoughts, ideas, misconceptions and tips that I have learned over the 30 years of Offshore Racing . Use them with caution!!!!**



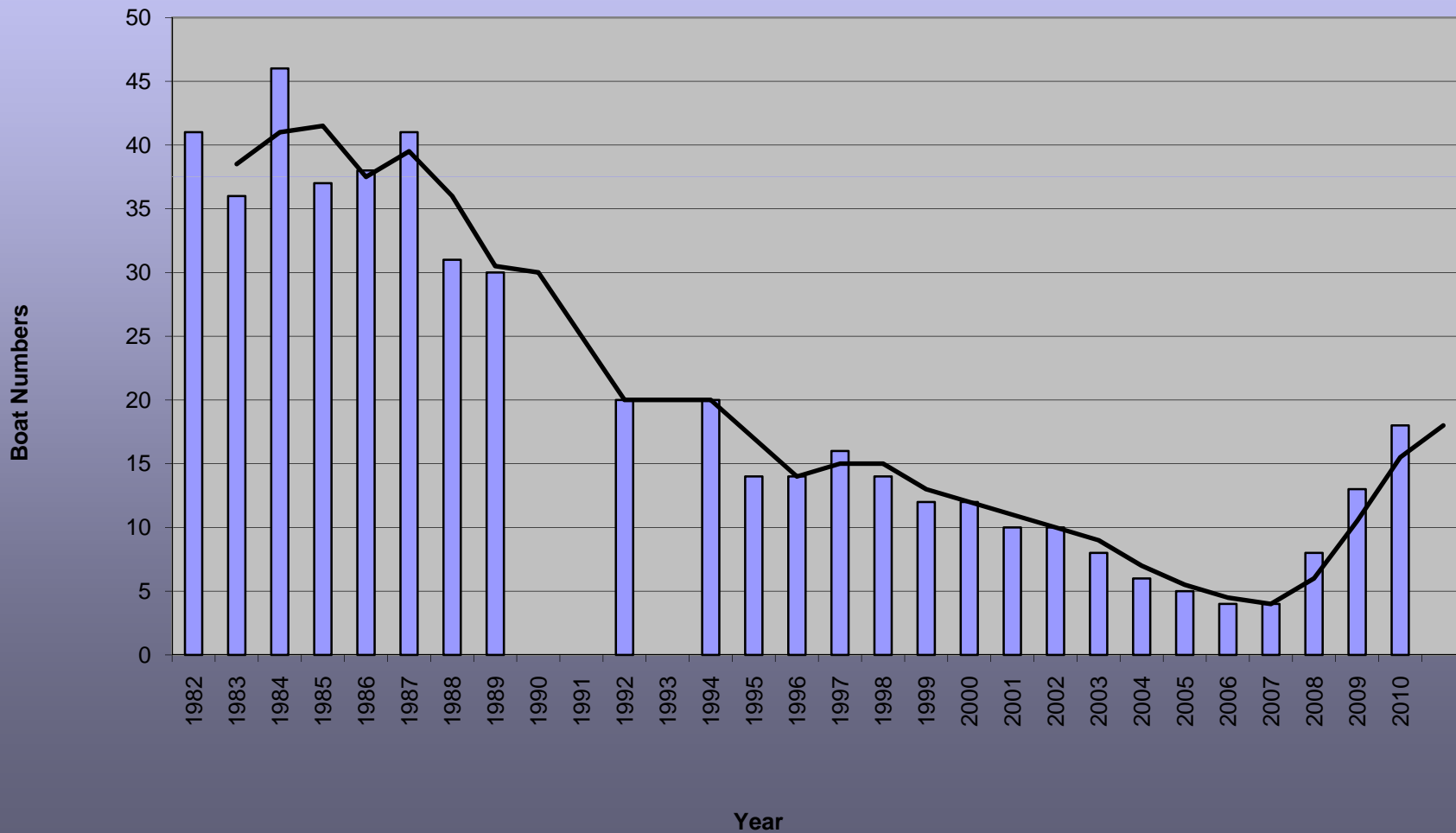
History of ISORA:

- **ISORA in some form involved with Offshore Racing in the Irish Sea for over 70 years.**
- **Origin after WWII.**
- **First formed as the "Merseyside and North Wales Joint Offshore Co-ordinating Committee.**
- **1962 name changed to the North West Offshore Association**
- **1971 name again changed to "Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association" – I.S.O.R.A.**
- **ISORA the "only game in town".
ISORA Week - major keelboat racing**
- **In 2007 plans to dissolve ISORA.**
- **In 2008 National Yacht Club undertook to run ISORA for a 3 year trial period.**



The decline of ISORA. 1980 – 2007

ISORA Average Numbers of Starters





Why was ISORA worth saving?

- **Unique goodwill and support from all Clubs involved.**
- **Huge trophy cabinet.**
- **Big boats disenchanted with inshore racing.**
- **The “success” of the White Sail Classes.**
- **Increased number of capable non-racing boats sitting on marinas.**
- **The “Spirit of ISORA”**



How did ISORA tackle the decline?

- **Combine ISORA fleet with the RAYC /Lee Overlay fleet – Critical Fleet Size.**
- **Canvass support from NYC and associated clubs to enter boats.**
- **Link up with Royal Dee and Liverpool YC for the Lyver Race and with WSC for the Round Ireland Race and NYC for the Dingle Race.**
- **Nurture boat owners and crew who showed any signs of interest – regular emails and texts.**
- **Careful selection of attractive Day Race courses & traditional Offshore races.**



How did ISORA tackle the decline?

- **Facilitate crew transfers etc – trying to eliminate possible reasons why not to race!!**
- **Use of IRC, IRC non spinnaker and 2-handed rating instead of “White Sail” Rating.**
- **Promote a strong social side of the racing – informal parties before and or after races.**
- **Generous trophies and prizes – little or no overheads.**
- **Great Black Tie Annual Dinner Dance.**



Recent ISORA Champions: Wolf Head Trophy

- 2008 – “Galelio” – Lemass Tennyson & Kelliher .
- 2009 – “Tsunami” – Vincent Farrell
- 2010 – “Raging Bull” – Matt Davis



The Clubs in Wales.



The UK Clubs involved are:

- **Holyhead Sailing Club**
- **South Caernarfonshire Yacht Club**
- **Pwllheli Sailing Club**
- **The Royal Dee Yacht Club**
- **Liverpool Yacht Club**



On the Irish side:



The Irish Clubs involved are:

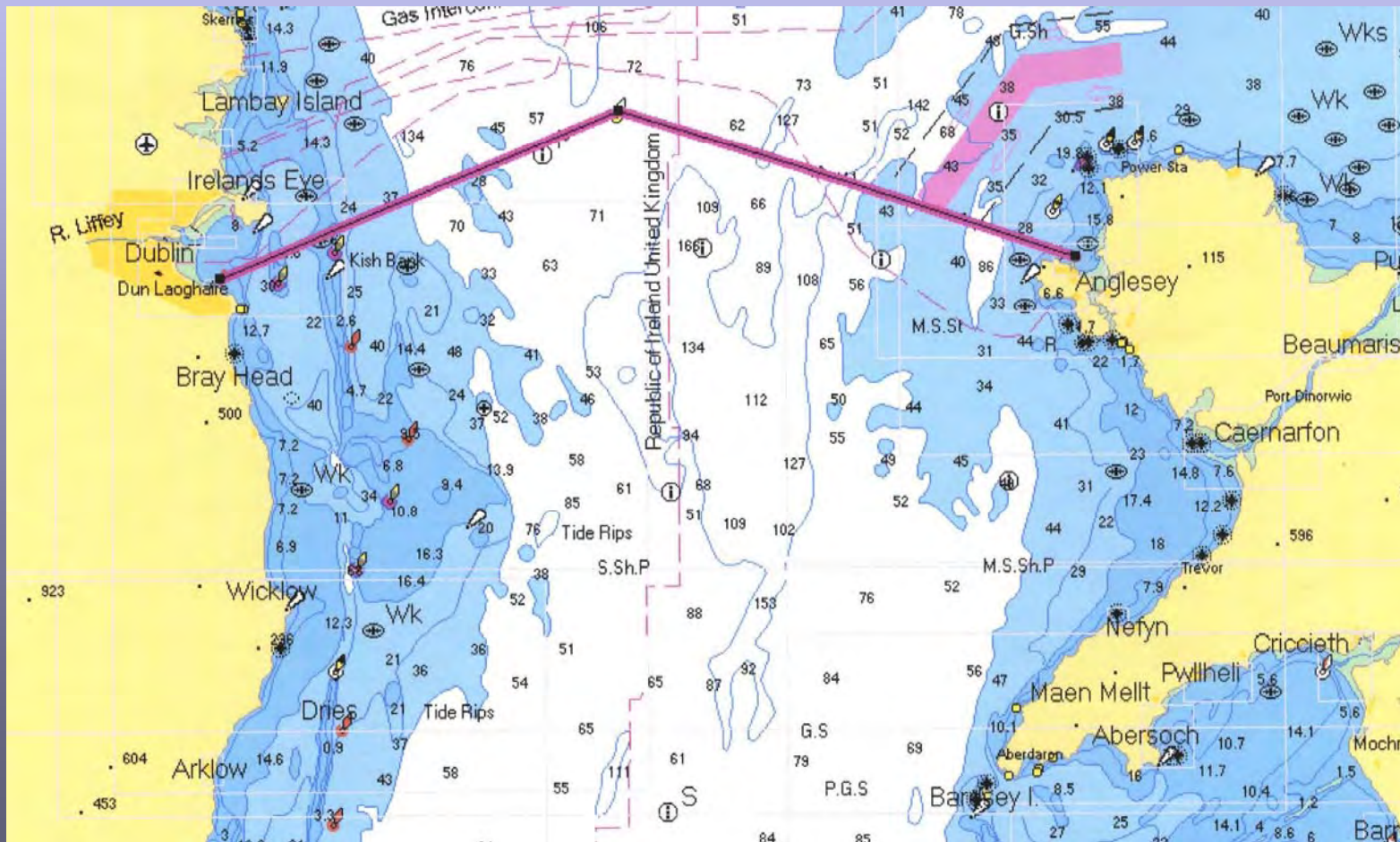
- **National Yacht Club,**
- **Royal Alfred Yacht Club**
- **Royal St. George Yacht Club**
- **Royal Irish Yacht Club,**
- **Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club**
- **Poolbeg Yacht & Boat Club,**
- **Howth Yacht Club**
- **Wicklow Sailing Club.**



ISORA Offshore Race Program 2011

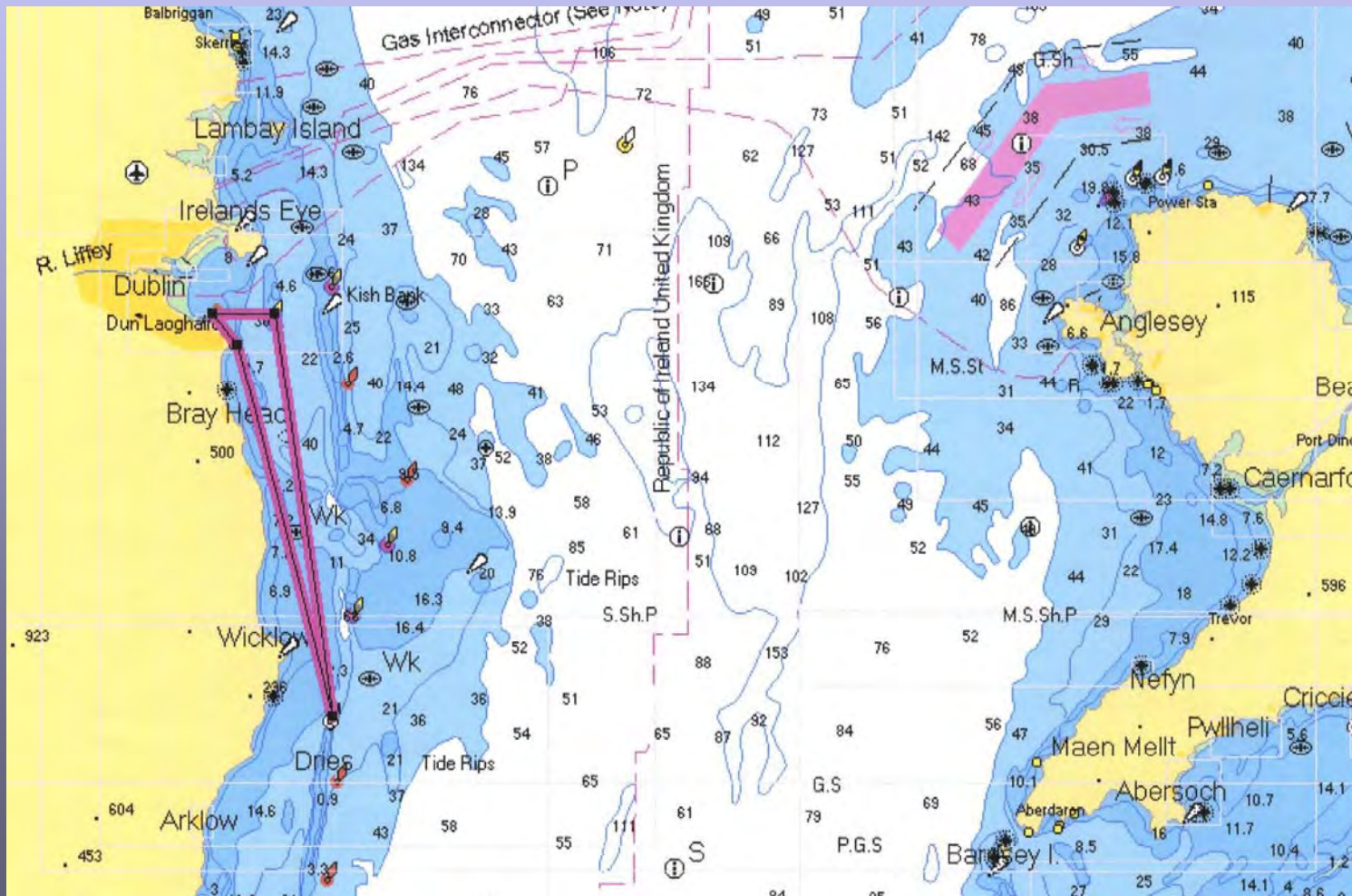
5 Offshore Races + 6 Inshore Day / Night Races

Race 1 - 30th April - **Offshore** - (57 miles) Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead



ISORA Offshore Race Program 2011

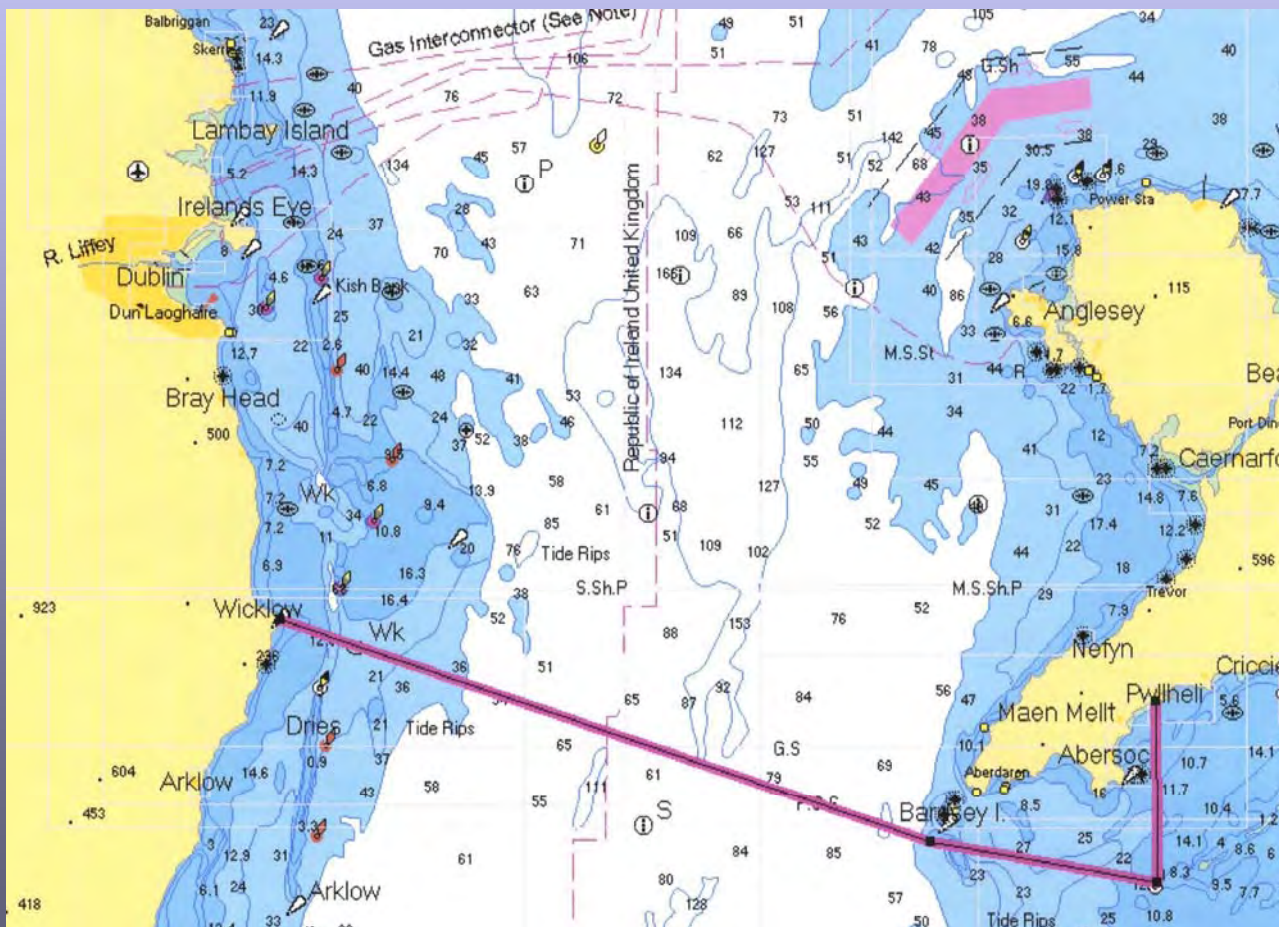
- Race 2 - 7th May - **Day Race** - (50 miles) Dun Laoghaire to Nt. Arklow



ISORA Offshore Race Program 2011

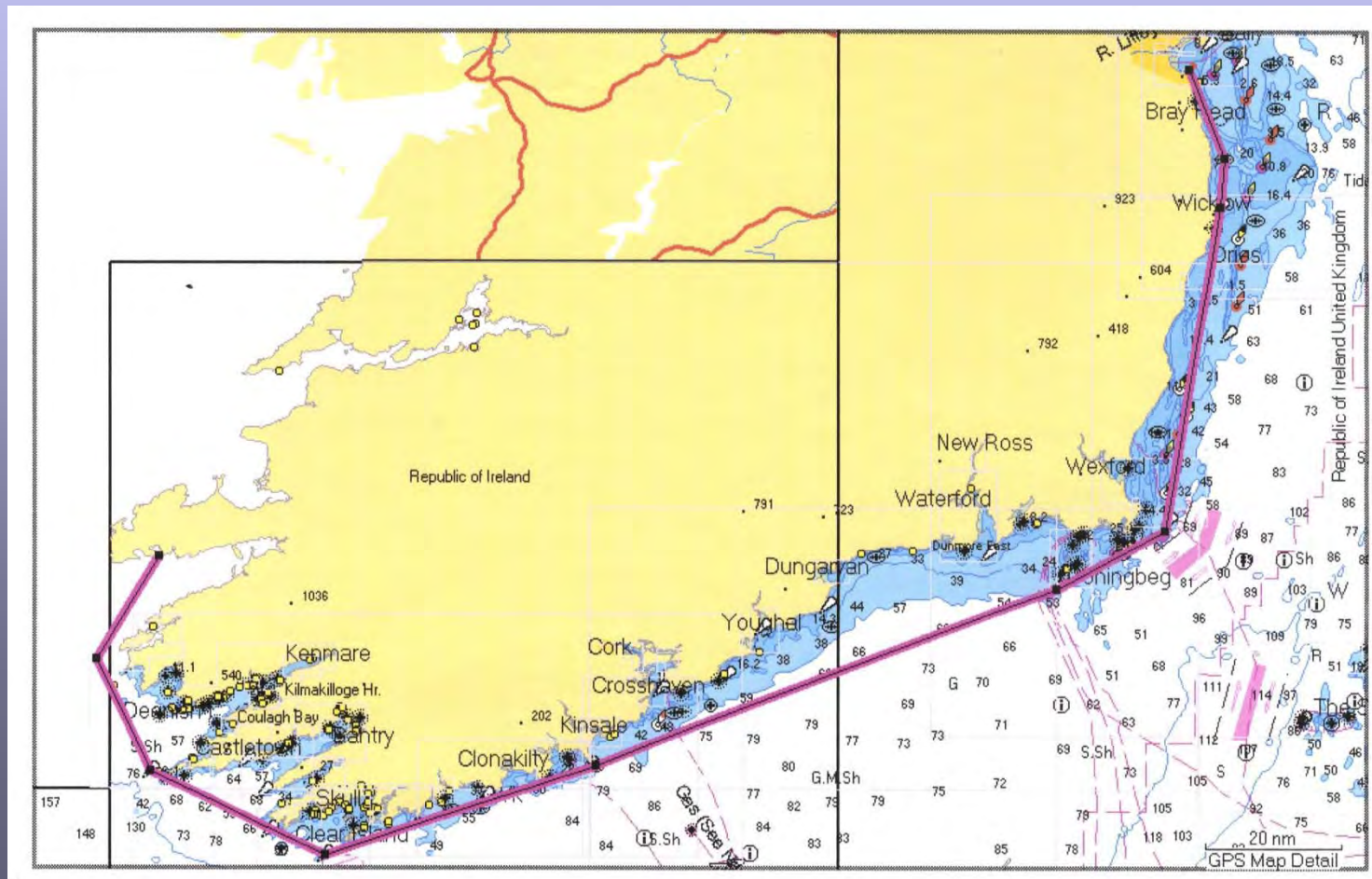
Race 3 - 14th May -**Day Race.** in Pwllheli

Race 4 - 28th May -**Offshore** – (75 miles) Pwllheli to Wicklow



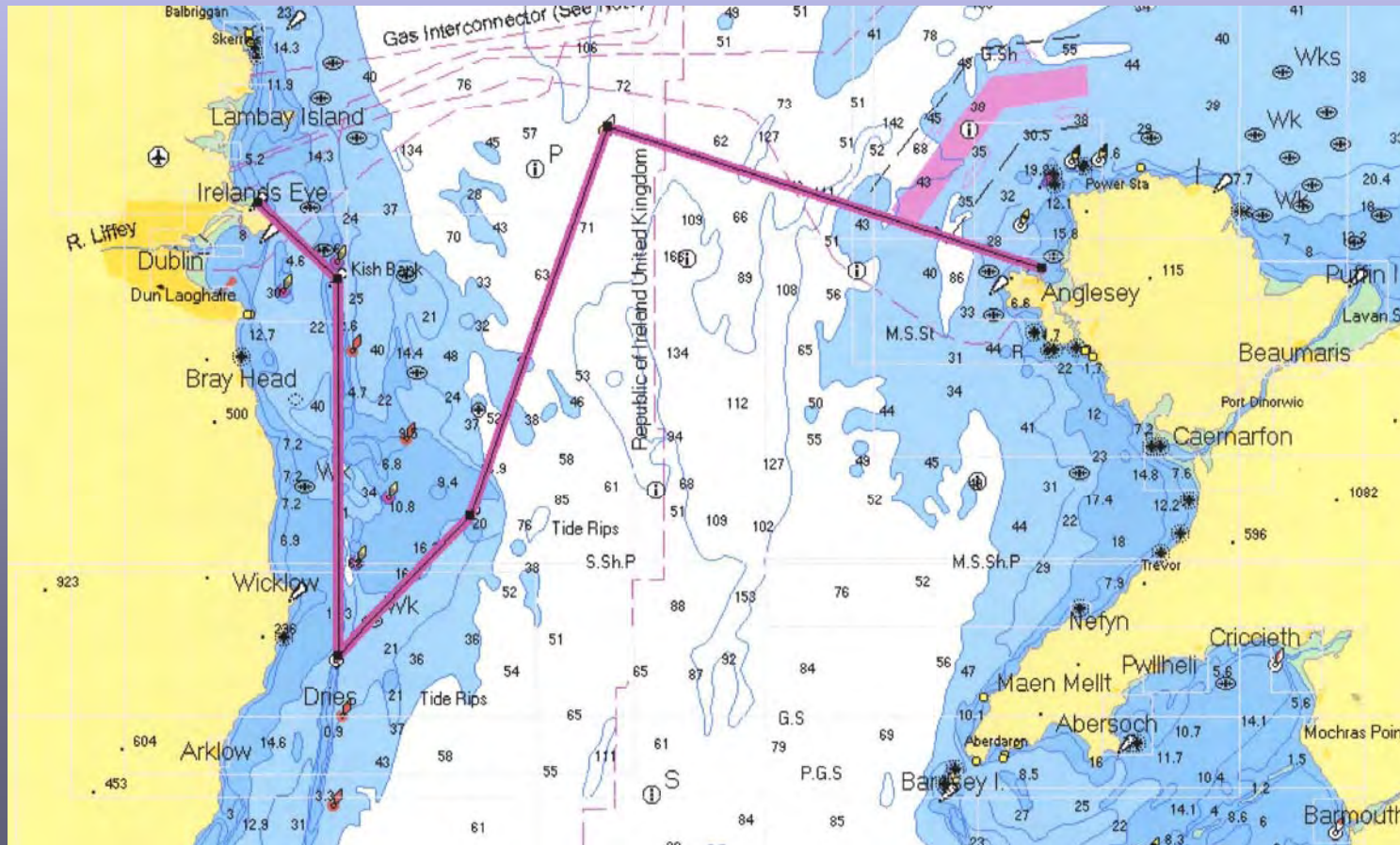
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Race 5 - 11th June - **Offshore** - Dingle Skellig Hotel Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race - (270 miles)



ISORA Offshore Race Program 2011

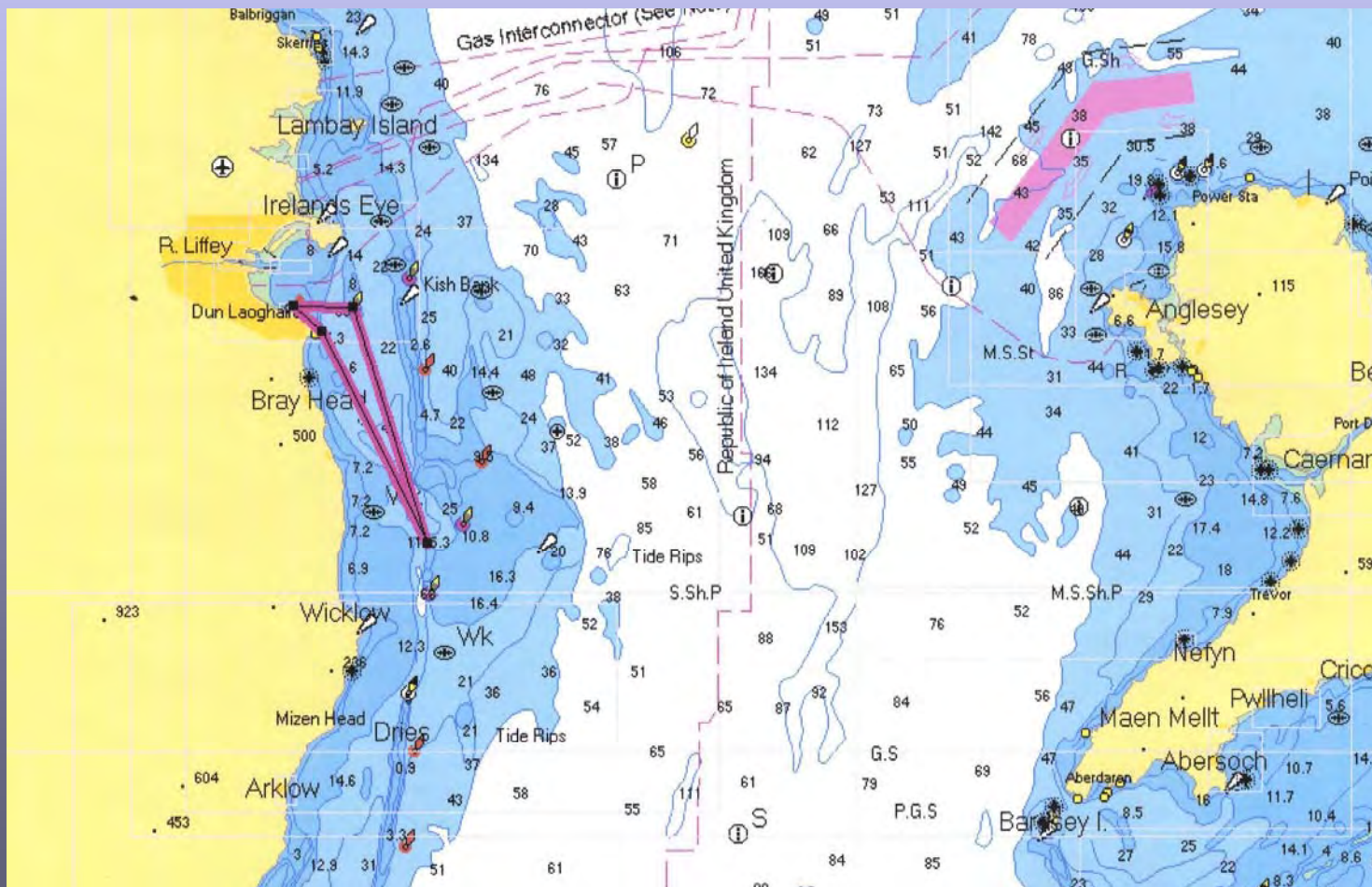
Race 6 - 1st July - **Offshore Lyver Race** – (100 miles) Holyhead to Howth



ISORA Offshore Race Program 2011

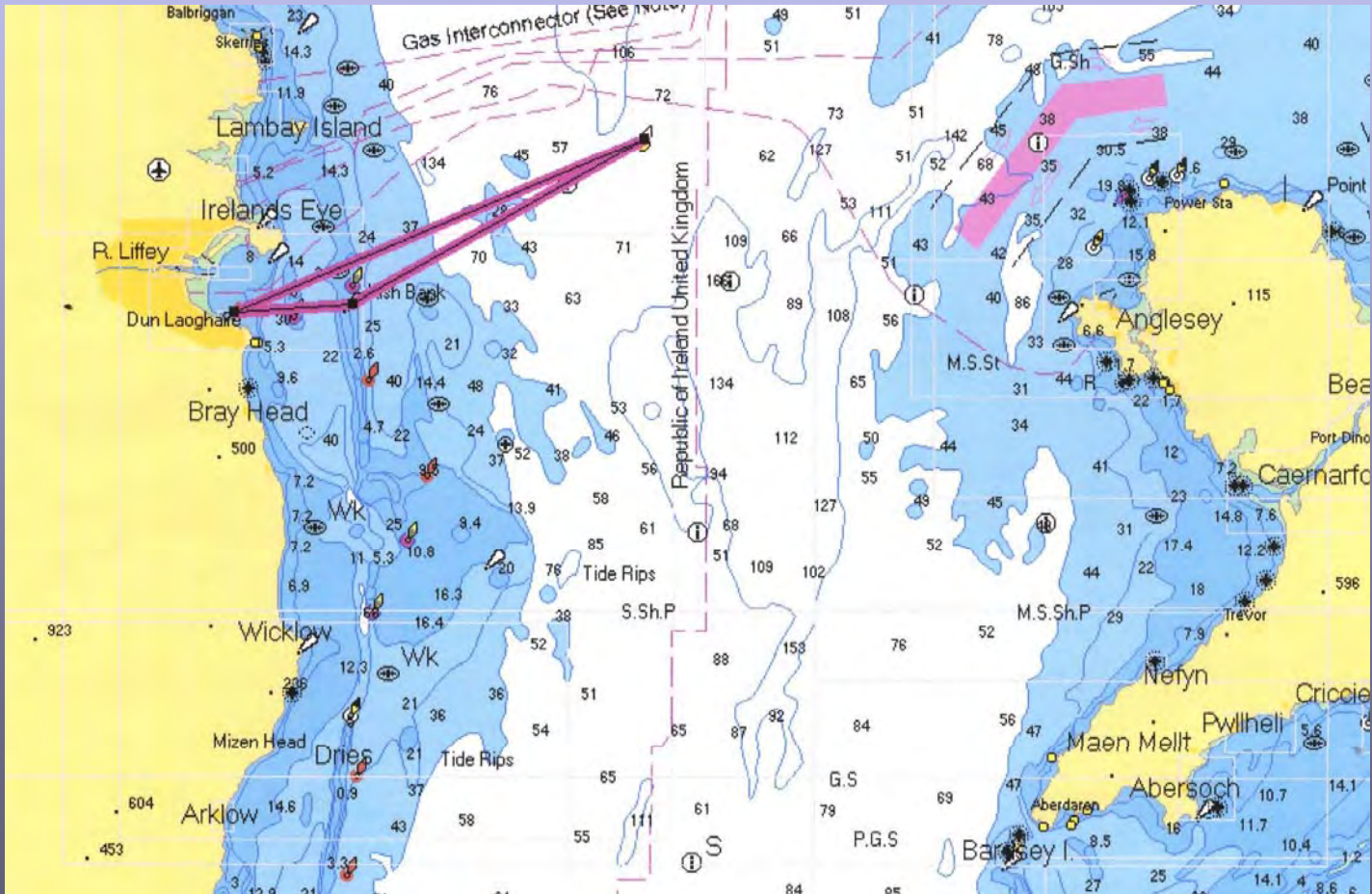
Race 7 - 17th July - **Day Race** in Pwllheli

Race 8 - 22nd July - **Night Race** - (35 miles) Dun Laoghaire to Nt. India



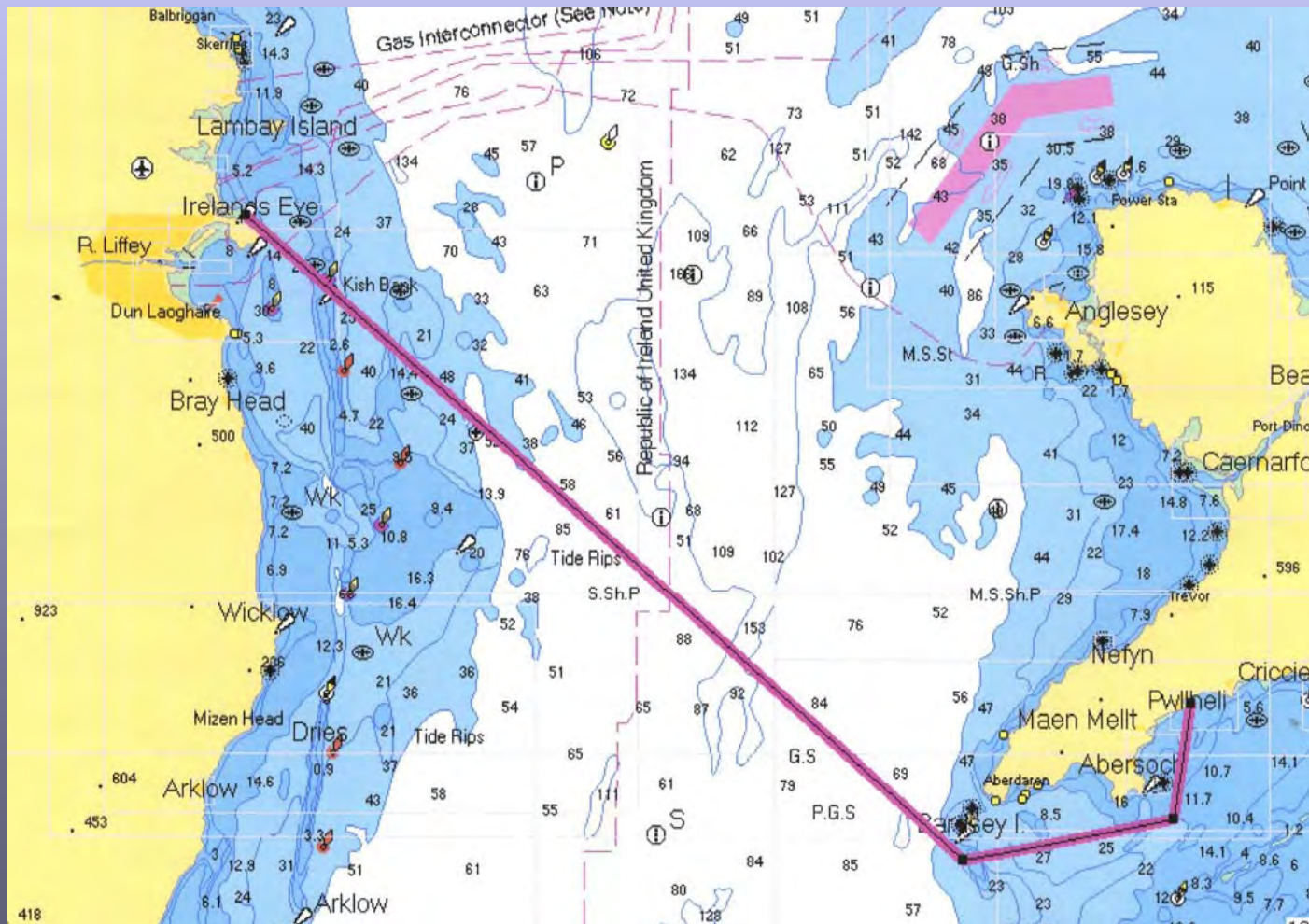
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Race 9 - 14th August - **Day Race** - (35 miles) Sunday Race in Dun Laoghaire
Race 10 - 3rd September - **Day Race** - (54 miles) Dun Laoghaire to M2



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Race 11 - 10th September - **Offshore** - (80 Miles) Pwllheli to Howth.



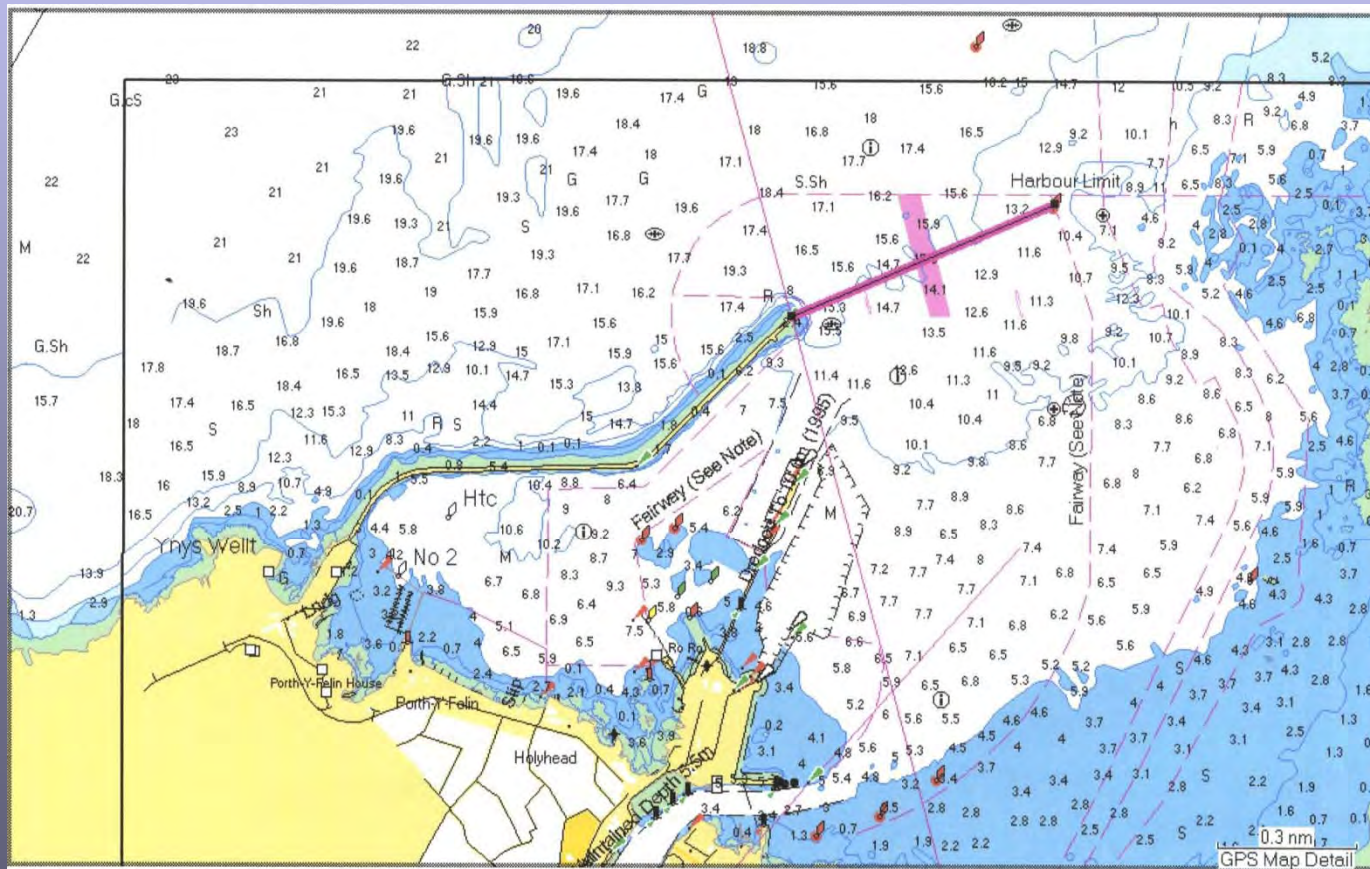
Pwllheli – Start

- Start – Transit formed by two posts, one on the platform at the old clubhouse the other on the beach in front. The outer distance mark is a yellow buoy.



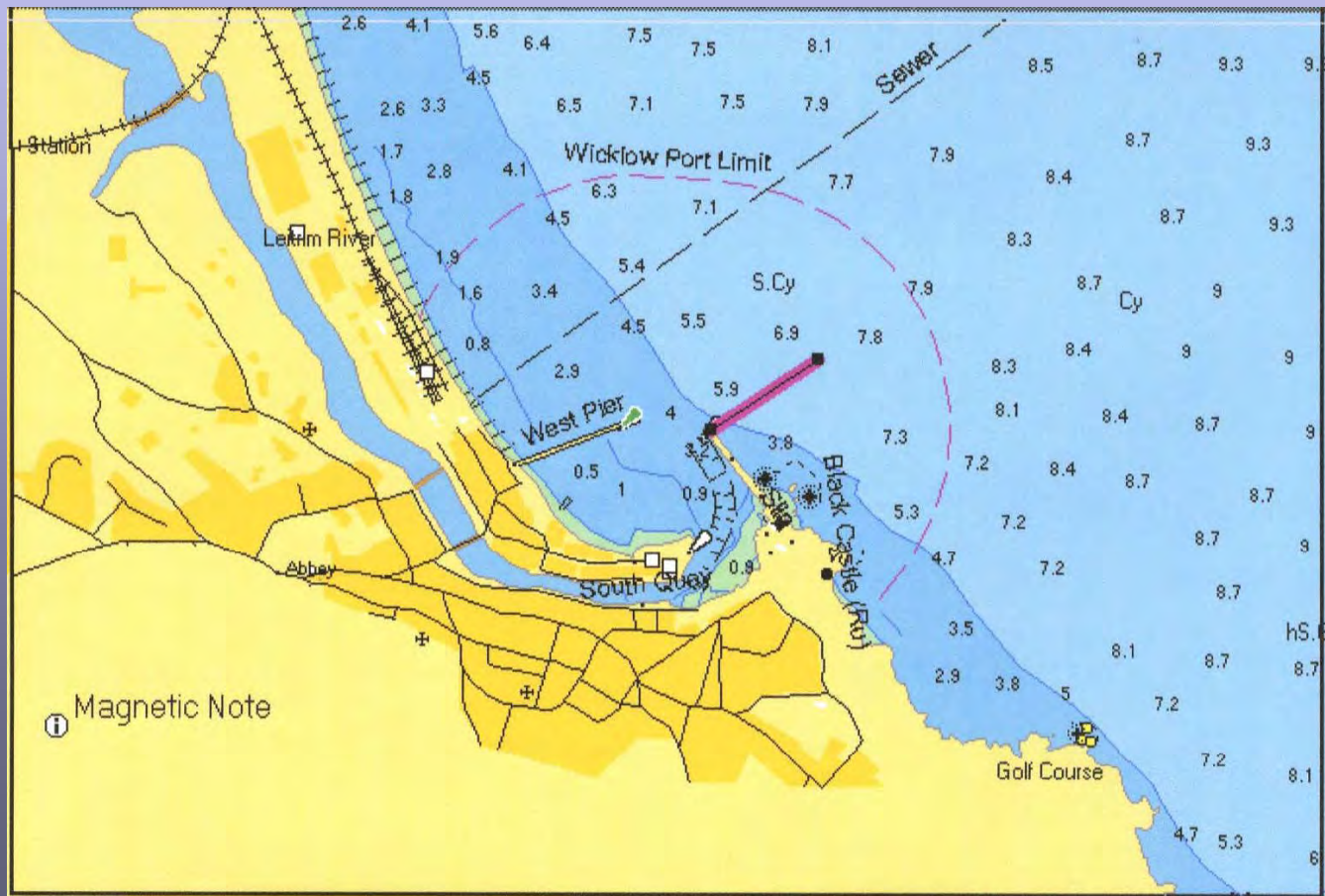
Holyhead – Start & Finish

- Start & Finish – Between the Pier Head Light and the Red Clipera Buoy.



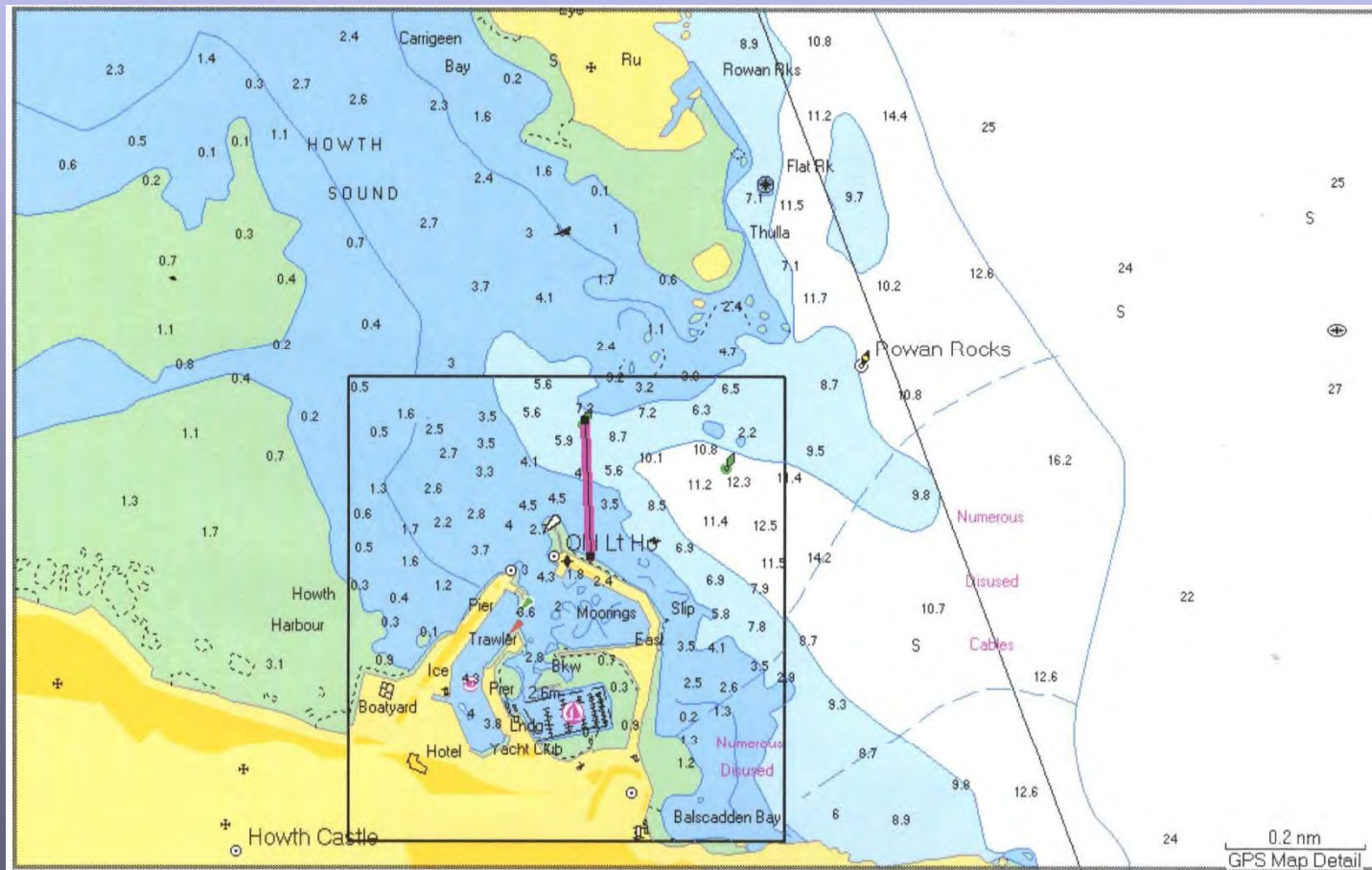
Wicklow – Finish

- Finish – Between the Pier Hear Light and a Yellow inflatable off the pier .



Howth – Finish

- Finish – Between the Box on the pier and the Green Rowan Rock Buoy



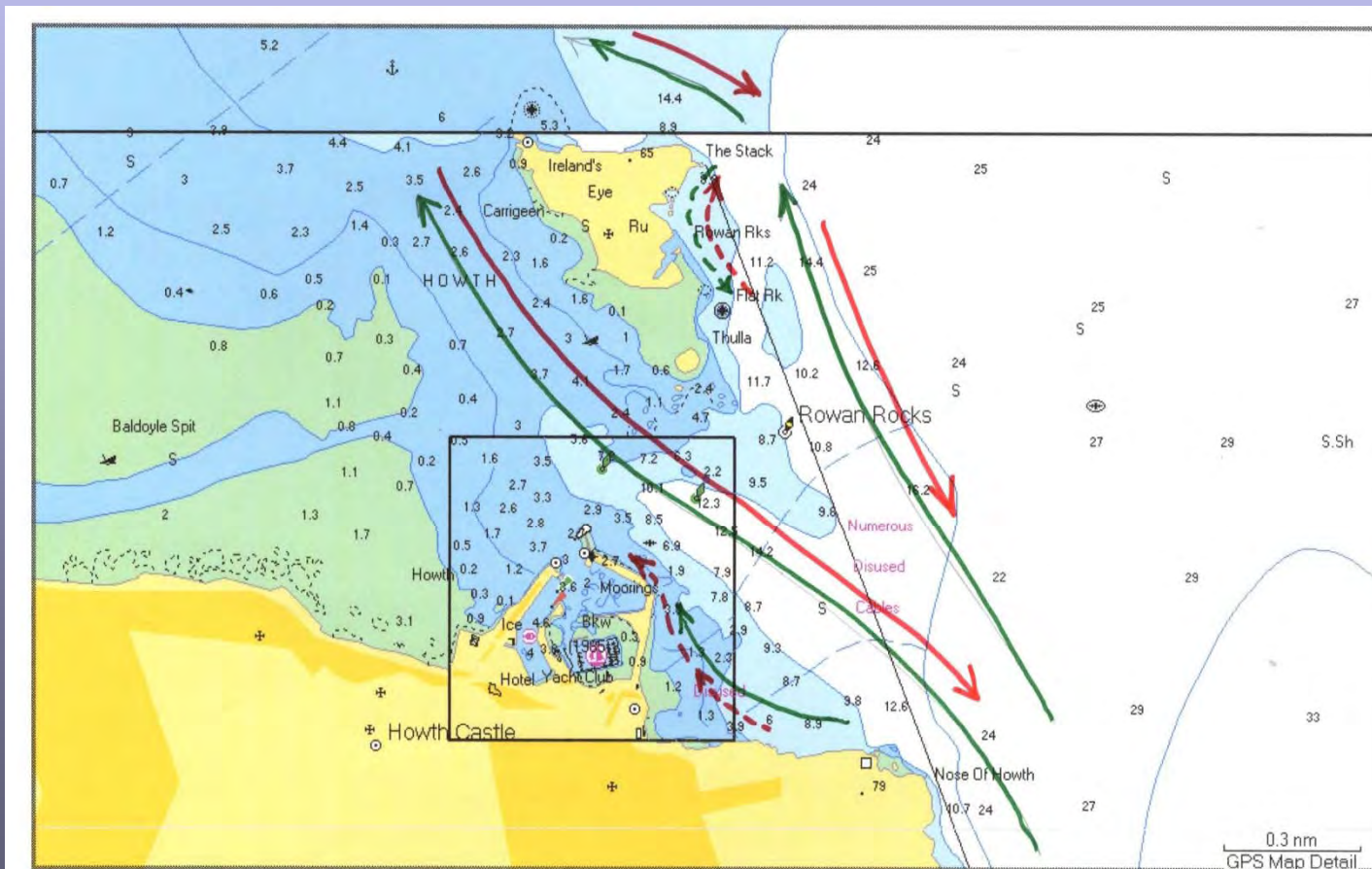
Dun Laoghaire – Start & Finish

- Start – Off East Pier
- Finish – Between the Pier Lighthouses.



Howth – Tides

- Tides change with approx HW (Dover).
- Note constant north west tide in Balscaddan Bay.



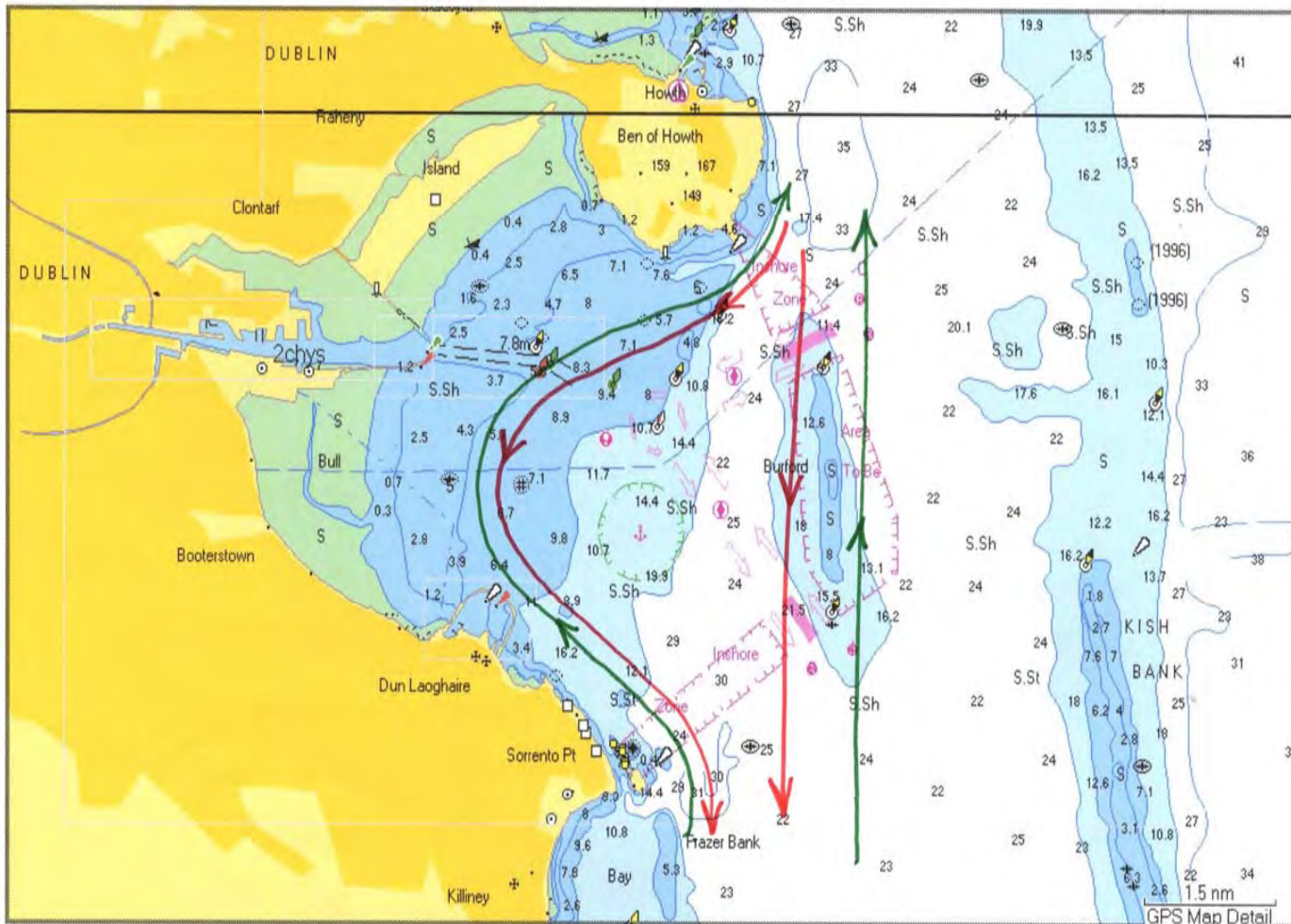
Wicklow – Tides

- Tides change with approx HW (Dover).
- **Note constant souh east tide between Wicklow Harbour and Wicklow HeadBay.**



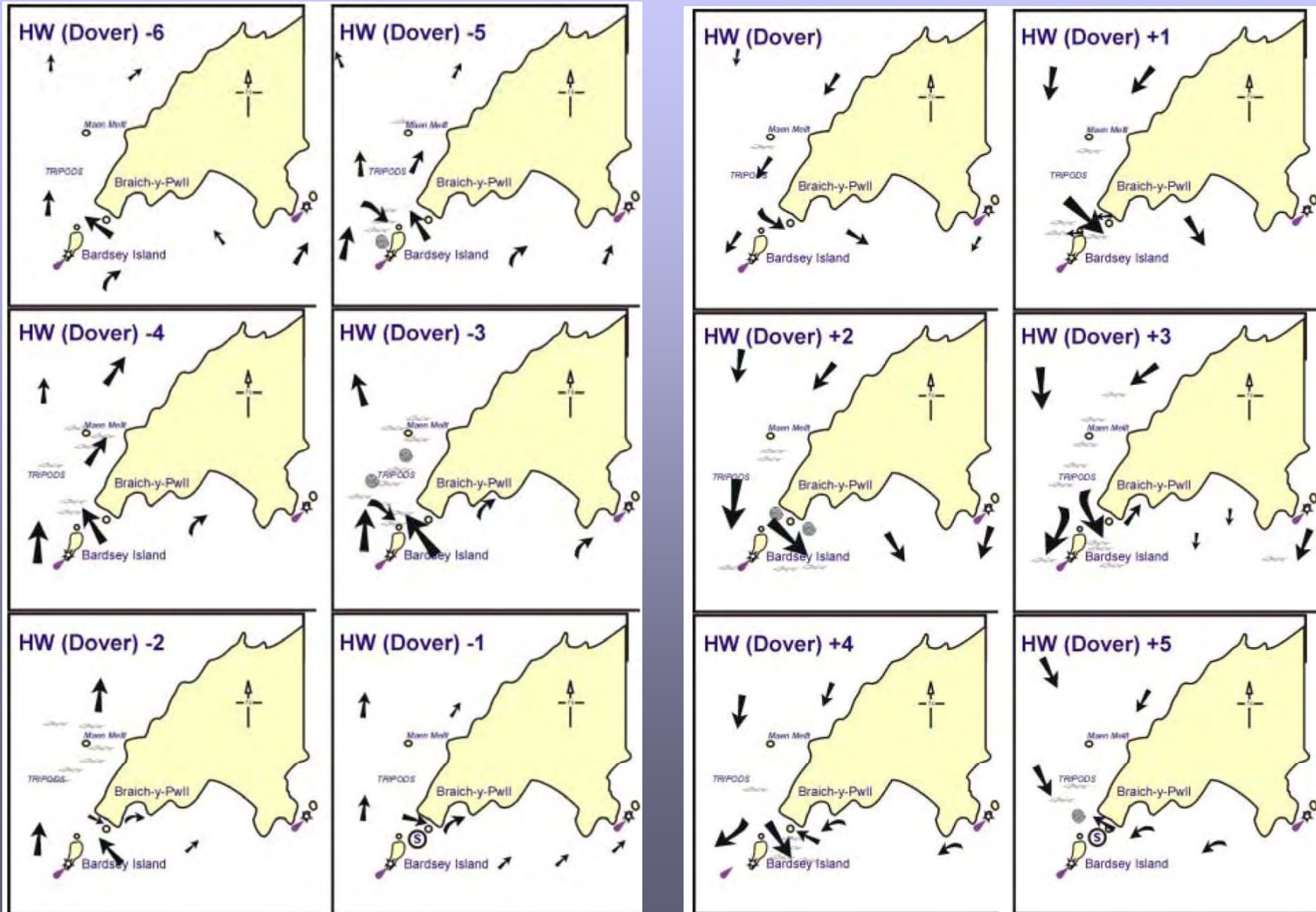
Dublin Bay – Tides

- Tides change with approx HW (Dover).



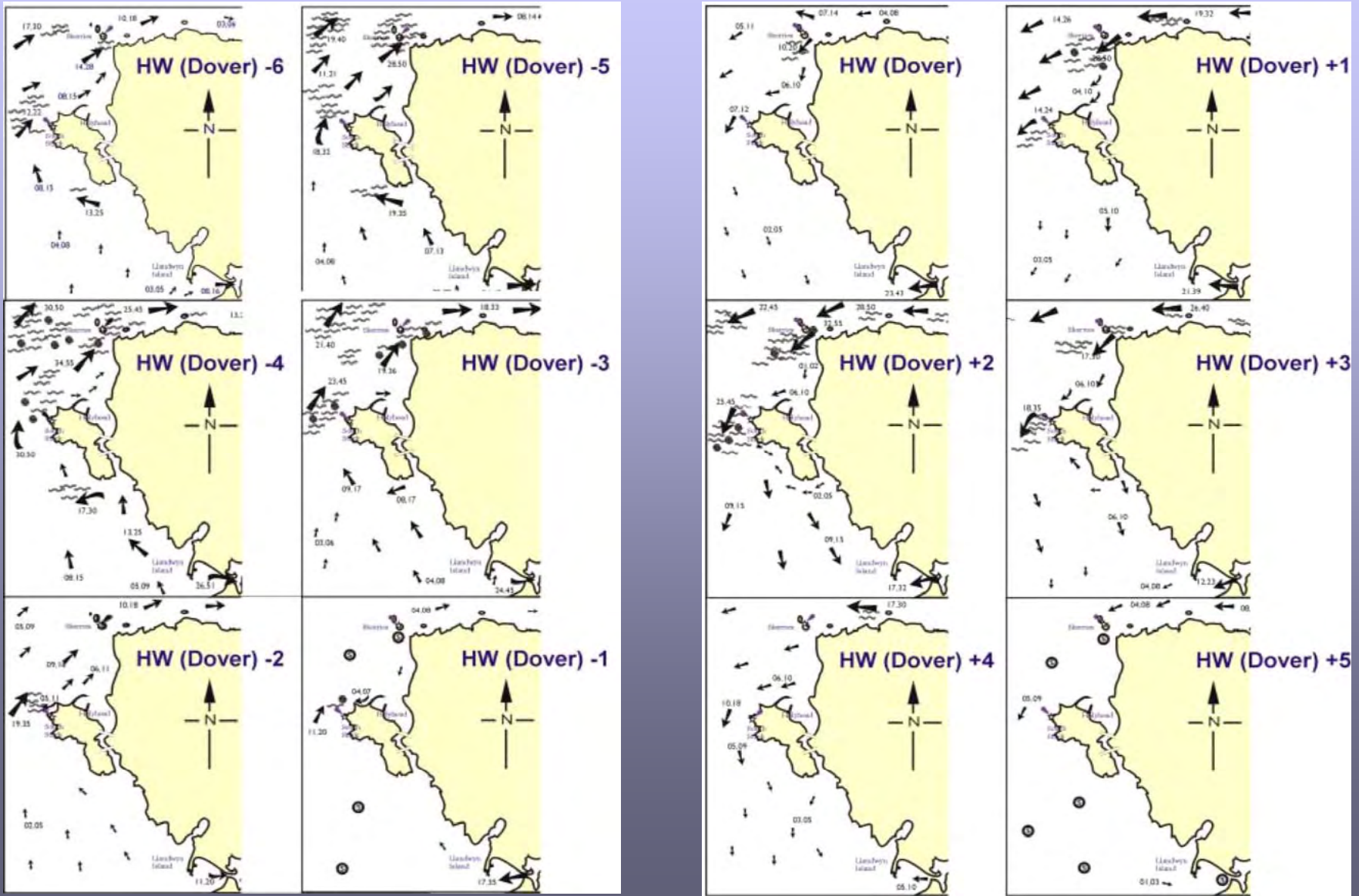
Bardsey – Tides

Tides change with approx HW (Dover) -1.

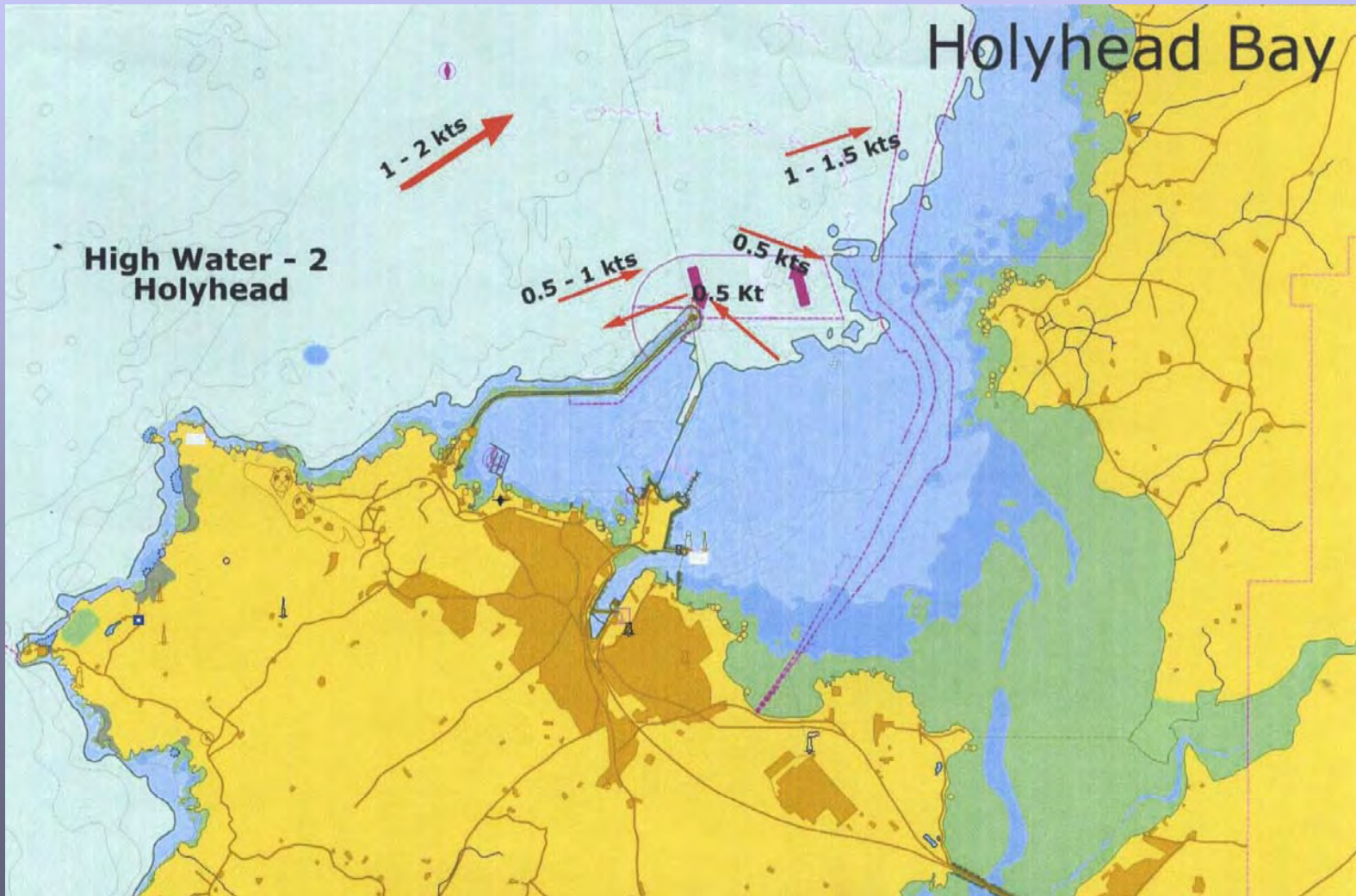


Holyhead – Tides

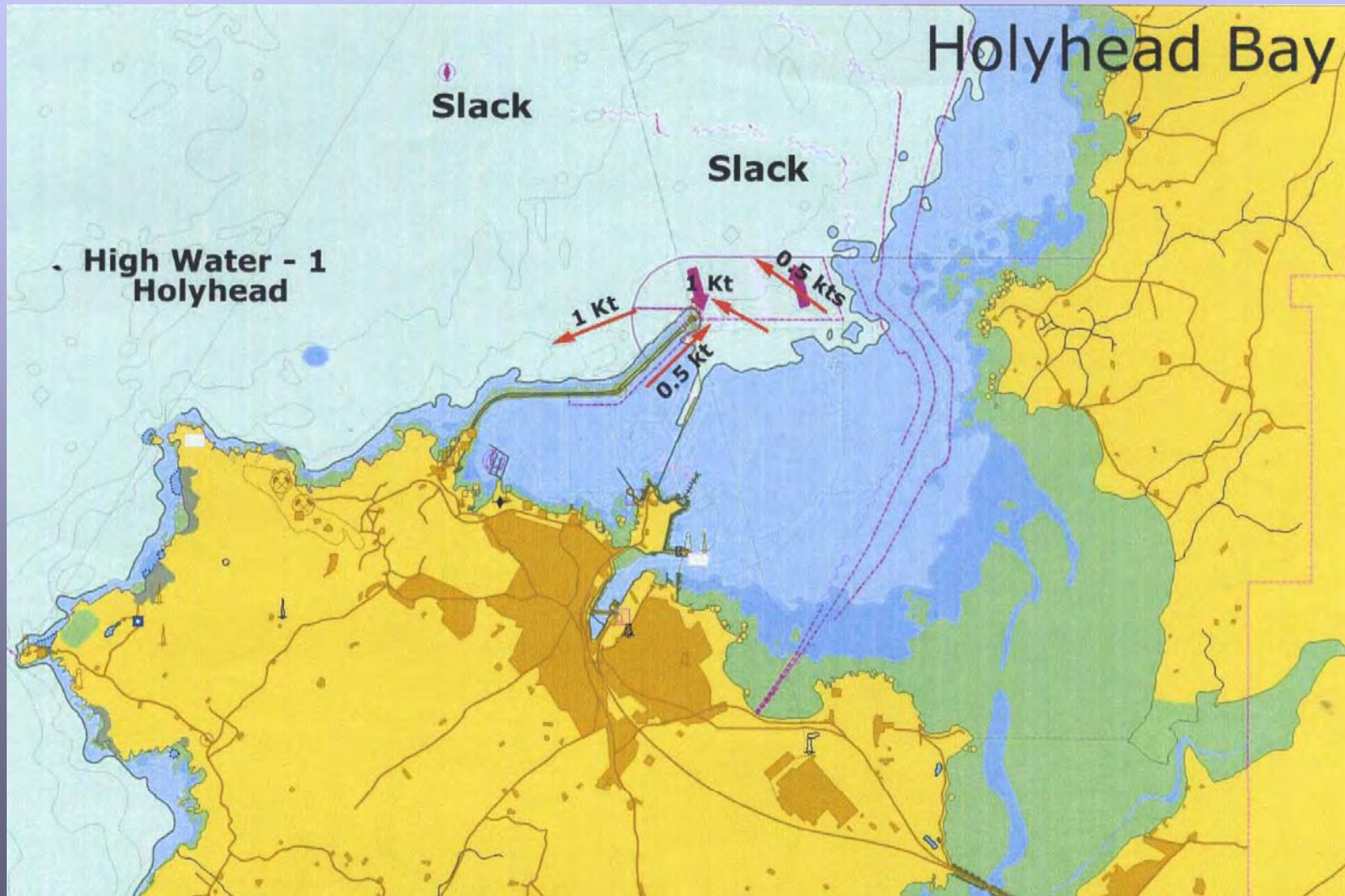
Tides change with approx HW (Dover) -1.



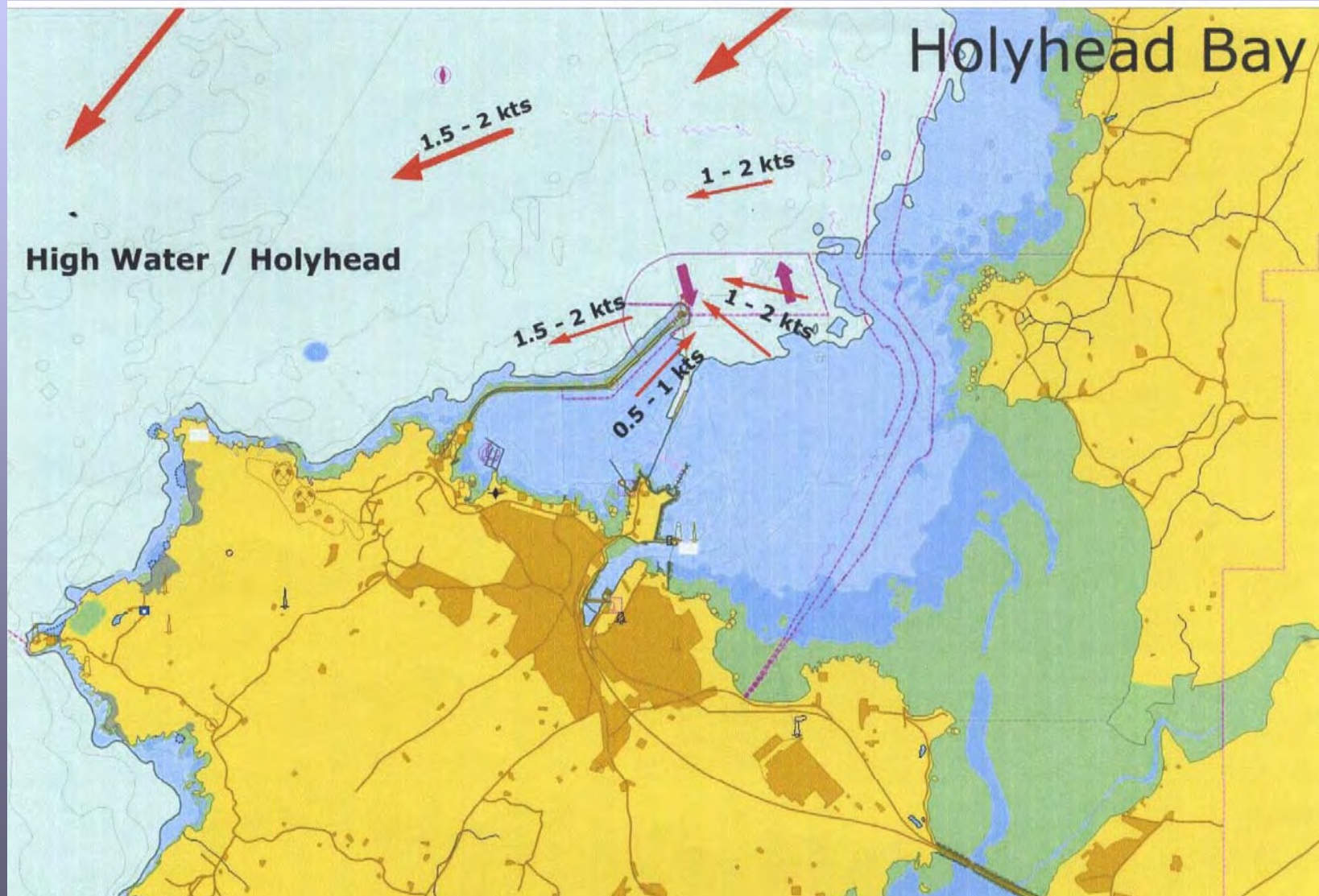
Holyhead – What happens at HW?



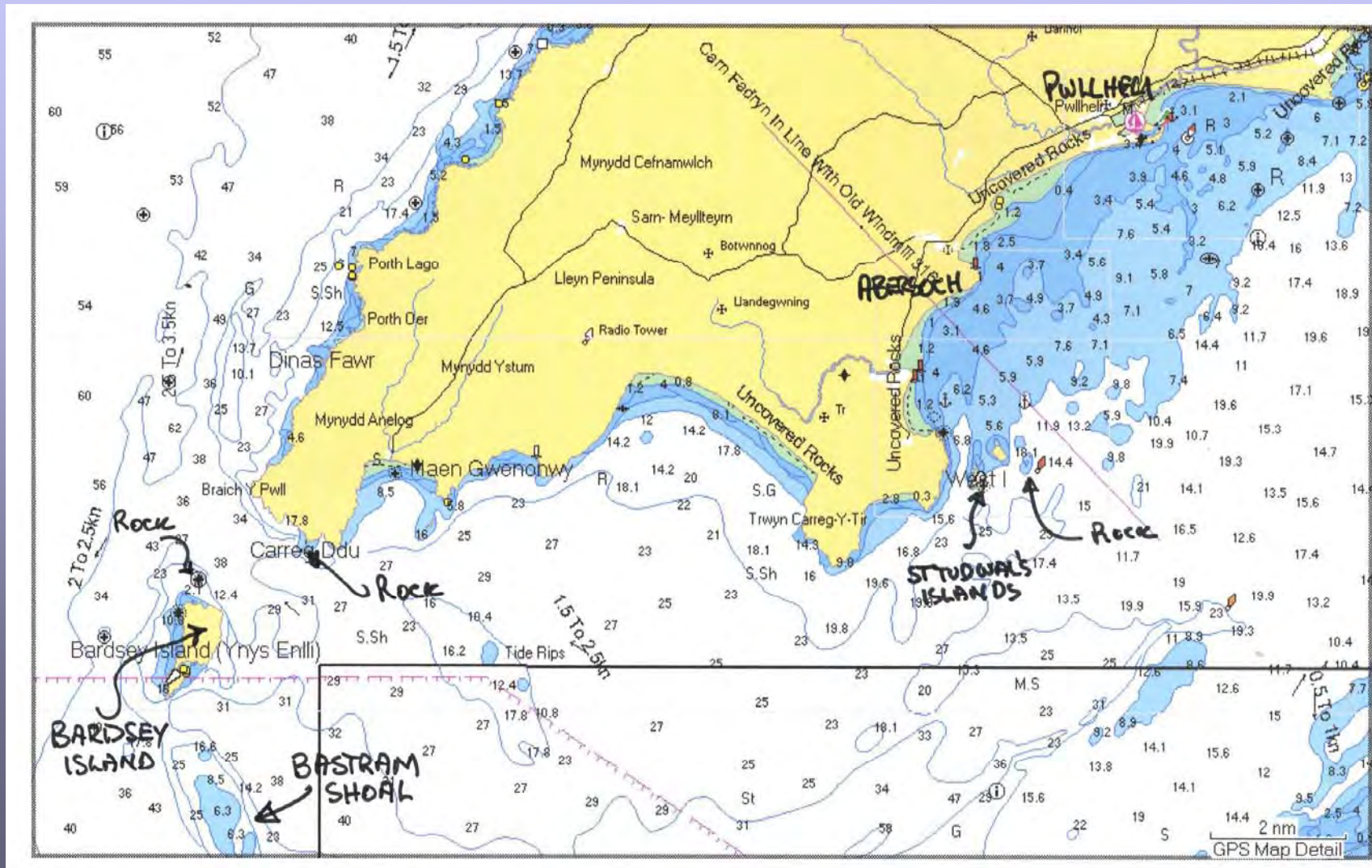
Holyhead – What happens at HW?



Holyhead – What happens at HW?



Bardsey Sound – There be dragons!!!



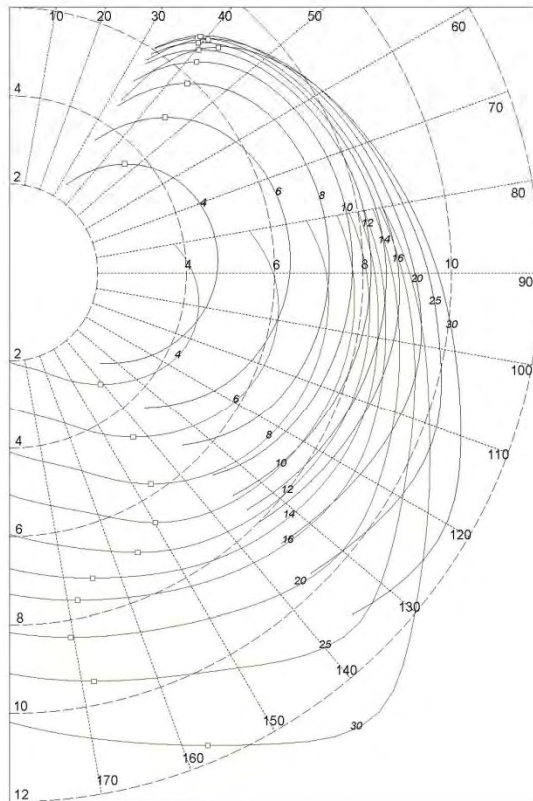
Fundamental Tips for Offshore Racing



DES. 354 - 40 Foot Fast Cruising Boat

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D354 - Beneteau 40.7 - Racing Version
For Chantiers Beneteau



V2.87 Wind values at masthead height. Rough water
p. 1

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- Never beat hard unless you are close to the waypoint.
- Sail your Polars.
- The most important number to sail to is your VMC – Course Made Good.
- Speed is the only way to overcome strong tides.
- Plan your approach to the finish line based on the NEXT tide.
- For long races crew multi-tasking is vital – change helm regularly.
- Eat when you can, not when you want.
- Stay dry at all costs!!!

Join ISORA and offshore racing.

For further information:

ISORA Website: WWW.ISORA.ORG

NYC Website: WWW.NYC.IE

Email: pamryan@indigo.ie



Phone: Peter Ryan – 087 2545037

THANK YOU.