

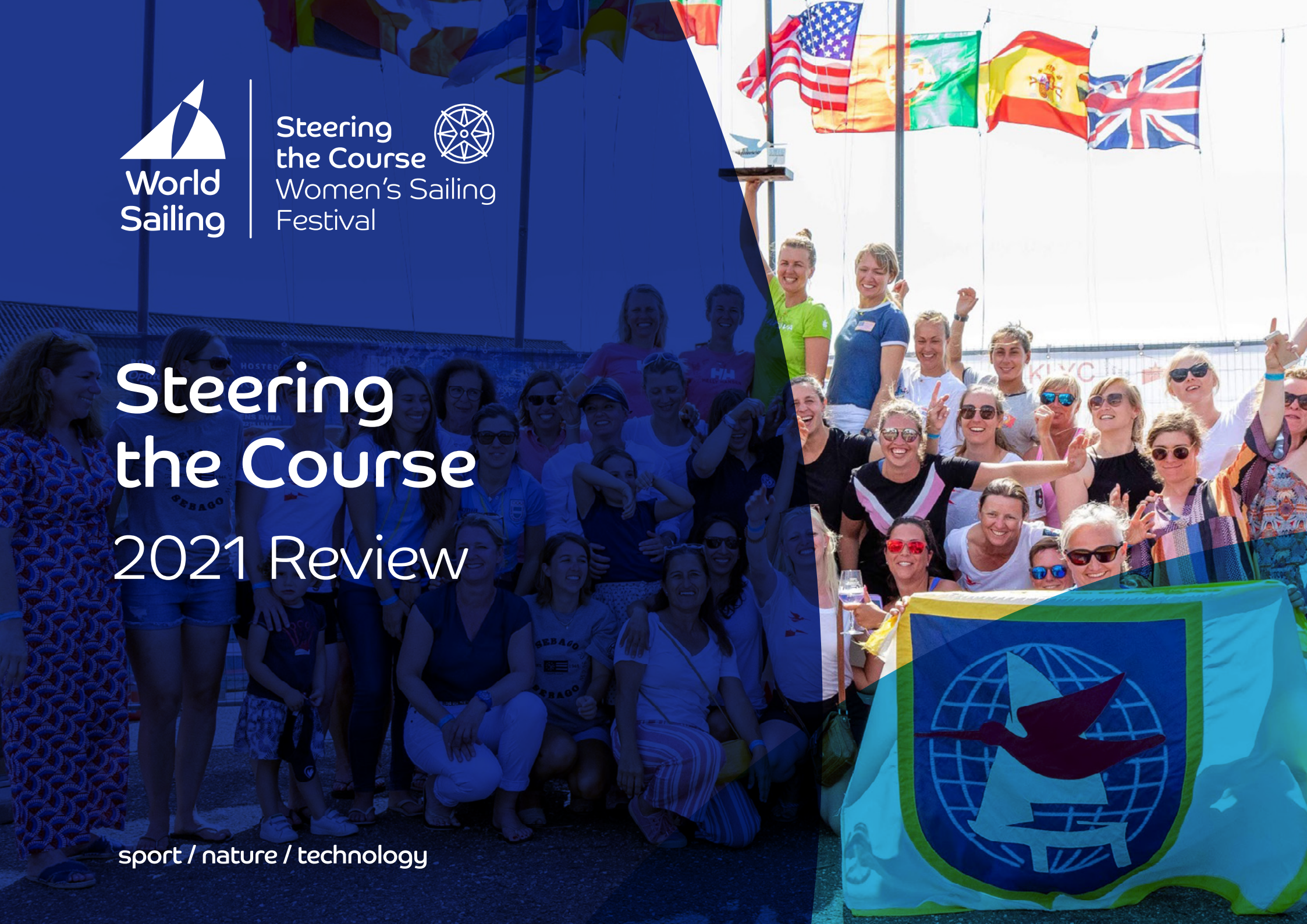


Steering
the Course
Women's Sailing
Festival



Steering the Course 2021 Review

sport / nature / technology



Contents

Introduction	3
Who took part	4
Festival 1 Activities	5
Festival 2 Activities	9
World Sailing Activities	11
What's Next	14



Introduction

2021 saw the first ever Steering the Course, Women's Sailing Festival.

The festival aimed to provide opportunities for women across the world to get into sailing, as well as encourage pathways into coaching and race management. It hoped to be a global initiative to bring together sailing communities, highlighting the achievements of women already within the sport, as well as attracting those who had never tried it before.

We invited MNAs, Class Associations, Sailing Clubs and communities to sign up and host events and were overwhelmed with the support and events that took place worldwide.



Who took part



Festival 1 - Activities Around the World

These activities all took place during the first Northern Hemisphere Steering the Course festival from Friday 21st – Sunday 30th May 2021

Barbados Sailing Association

They held 2 days of activities including a Radio Sailing session and Female Regatta. Sailors also took part in social activities. Despite some strong winds, the regatta was a great success, and all participants had a lot of fun.

Bahamas Sailing Association

On Saturday May 22nd the president of The Bahamas Sailing Association, Lori Lowe, organized an event at The Nassau Yacht Club. Due to high winds, only one boat (i420) was rigged and given a couple of short spins!

It is hoped to arrange more such events in the near future in collaboration with Lyford Cay Sailing, The Royal Nassau Sailing Club and The Nassau Yacht Club. Depending on location and weather conditions, a variety of different boats will be sailed, catering to all ages and ability levels.

Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association

80 women and girls took part in the Try Sailing day on Sunday 30th May and because the response was so overwhelming they held a second day on Sunday 6th June and have now started a weekly women's sailing classes with 10 people already confirmed!



Royal British Virgin Islands Yacht Club

Over 50 sailors took part in their open on Saturday 29th May with many trying out sailing for the first time!

Sint Maarten Yacht Club

On Sunday 30th May, the Sint Maarten Yacht Club welcomed over 65 women of all ages for a sailing try out as part of the Steering the Course Women's Sailing Festival. This free event took place at Kim Sha Beach and gave women the opportunity to give sailing a chance.

St Vincent and the Grenadines Sailing Association

Enjoyed an amazing festival of women's sailing this on the last weekend of May. They had over 30 women involved, with over 20 on the water.

Hebe Haven Yacht Club – Hong Kong

Hebe Haven Yacht Club hosted an INCREDIBLE 10 days of sailing activities, including regattas, taster sessions, quiz nights and fitness activities.

The drew in local sponsors and radio and press attention, featuring on a host of national channels and in the press.

Iceland – Seiglurnar

The team is about to embark on their trip to be the first all female crew to sail around Iceland. As part of Steering the Course they hosted Introductory courses and launched their event.

Dansk Sejlunion

The team presented the central findings from their survey of women in boating, by hosting an online conference.

In addition, they discussed two themes during the evening: gender-discriminatory behaviour in sailing sports as well as men and women's perception of boating and voluntary life. They also heard from a club that has succeeded especially well in creating a thriving life for the women in the club.

During the week clubs also hosted open activities and forums.

Hungarian Sailing Association

Hungary hosted a range of women sailing events including a J24 regatta and the launch of the women's one design series. Olympic Sailor Mari Erdi also featured in a special video and podcast

Sailing Club JK Uljanik Pula

The club welcomed the Welcome On Board Sailing team which has 70 sailors from over 30 countries.

As well as hosting open day activities for sailors to come and have a go at activities.

GP 14 Class Association

The class held online discussions with something for everyone to learn and loads of hints from their leading female sailors. The talks can now be viewed online for those who couldn't watch live.





Salish Sea Women in Sailing Symposium (SSWiSS) – USA

The group held an online symposium with a Friday night opening social, and six panel discussions on Saturday. The panelists discussed a broad range of topics including basics on sail trim, race strategy, ocean cruising and how to get involved with various sailing communities. The event was hosted by CYC with support from TSLAG (Team Sail Like a Girl) and SWSG (Shilshole Women Sailors Group) and is meant to bring together and build the community of women sailors of the Puget Sound/Salish Sea area. They also held a small fun sail event on Sunday.

Japanese Sailing Federation

In order to expand e-sailing, the Ladies Committee of Japan Sailing Federation organized an online e-sailing beginners learning session on 29 May 2021 as one of the *Steering the Course* events. The instructor, Chairperson of E-sailing committee is also a member of Ladies Committee. 12 people joined after downloading Virtual Regatta. After some serious practise, they improved their skills to the level where they could enjoy several races together. Their next target is to organise the first E-sailing Ladies Committee Cup!

Guam Sailing Federation

Inspired by the *Steering the Course* focus on getting more women and girls interested and involved in sailing, the Marianas Yacht Club hosted a Spring Sailing Class focused on girls, and open to all. The class was held each Saturday, from April 17th to May 29th, 2021. The class consisted of 8 girls and 2 boys aged 10 – 20 and was led by certified female instructor, Stephanie Anderson

The Spring class to finish on the *Steering the Course* weekend so that the students graduated on May 29th and culminated their class with a race as part of the festival. 8 girls and 2 boys competed in a 2-class Laser/Opti race led and coordinated by our instructor, Stephanie Anderson with support from Kelly Bruce and Cait Gayle. They used the pinnies provided by World Sailing for this race and the sailors were super excited to receive them!

Then on Sunday, May 30th, the Marianas Yacht Club participated in World Sailing's *Steering the Course*, Women's Sailing Festival by hosting a taster event. Focused on women and girls, and promoted to everyone, the Club was at capacity (per our local COVID guidelines) as members offered rides on their boats to fellow members, guests and the public. By the end of the day, the volunteer sailors had given rides to 60 people!



As a result of the *Steering the Course* activities, they now have a dedicated and enthusiastic crew of new youth sailors, the majority of whom are girls, who after their class came to volunteer at the festival and now have signed up to assist with our Summer Youth Program. In addition, following the May 30th festival and taster event, they have had 4 new members join the club – all women, and have had numerous requests for women sailing classes! The next plan is to run a *Women, Wind and Wine* sailing program as soon as they secure an additional instructor, the demand is so high!

Yacht Klub Polski Kraków

Highlighted the success and dedication of their youth sailing members.

Team Ladies Sailing Korea

Held training sessions both on and off the water to help their sailors develop their sailing skills.

Hellenic Sailing Federation

Due to COVID restrictions meaning they couldn't host physical activities until the October festival, the federation hosted a photo competition for the chance to win a training session with Olympic Bronze Medallist Sofia Papadopoulou and Case Study star Eleni Stamkou

Real Club Marítimo Del Abra

Held their second International Women's Sailing Cup as part of *Steering the Course*!

Slovak Sailing Union

Events were hosted across the country including taster sessions and female learn to sail courses. Female sailors also shared their experiences in the sport.

RYA

The RYA embarked on a substantial 10 day program of Social Media activation across their main and regional channels. Stories from participants, coaches, instructors, officials and sailors alike were highlighted.

Opportunities to find out more about becoming an instructor, coach and officials were also available with special information sessions.

Festival 2 - Activities Around the World

These activities all took place during the first Southern Hemisphere Steering the Course festival from Friday 1st – Sunday 10th October 2021

Australia

Through their extremely successful SheSails initiative Australian Sailing ran the inaugural National SheSails Leadership Conference where nearly 200 participants logged in to hear from an impressive line-up of speakers talk about how to empower women and girls to reach their potential in sailing.

Clubs around the country were then encouraged to host their own events. Some highlights include The Mooloolaba Yacht Club organised taster sessions with volunteer course leaders Kristen Davidson, Suzanne Mabbott and Naomi Croft taught the basics of sailing before taking the club's training keelboats out on the water. As well as activities at Middle Harbour YC, Newcastle Cruising YC, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Cruising Yacht Club of Australia.

Chinese Taipei

Sailing clubs in Chinese Taipei held taster sessions in Optimist and Keelboat classes.

Greece

Clubs in Greece organised Have a Go sessions after lifting of COVID restrictions allowed larger public gatherings.

Uruguay

Yacht Club Uruguayo held 3 sessions over a weekend, Bring a Friend along for Optimist age, be a Coach for the day for participants to see what being a coach is all about and an Introduction to Sailing sessions for adult participants.



South Africa

South African Sailing released a series of feature videos highlighting prominent sailing role models in South Africa. One of the feature videos focused on Lungelo Myeza, recently selected as the Commodore of KZN Yacht Club. They also encouraged clubs to talk about their role models and experiences within the sport.

St Kitts and Nevis

The Nevis Aquatic and Sailing Centre (NASC) hosted its Steering the Course day on October 16th, in partnership with World Sailing and the Department of Health and Gender Affairs, Nevis.

Whilst the day was designed around sailing, other activities were offered to encourage women to feel comfortable in the water and experience water sports for the first time regardless of their swimming ability.

The event was divided into 2 half days as numbers for each session had to be capped due to Covid protocols. The Minister for Health and Gender Affairs, Hazel Brandy-Williams, gave an inspirational opening speech encouraging women to discover and enjoy “their marine backyard”. She arrived ready to participate in the water - a true role model!

The Steering the Course Day was a huge success. Ten sail instructors and assistants interacted with the women and girls to introduce them to the fun of sailing and ensure they felt safe. They were

supported by 10 volunteers from the Center and Department for Health and Gender Affairs. The event represented a positive collaboration and partnership which both organisations are now committed to developing going forward.

Ninety percent of the 50 women present had not visited the Center before. As a result NASC has received new registrations for Swim, Adult Sail and Youth Sail classes.

New Zealand

Events took place in clubs across New Zealand. Activities were encouraged through the Club network that has been created to support more female sailing.

Nelson Yacht Club hosted an open day with Have-A-Go sessions as well as fun races whilst Bluff Yacht Club held a nautical quiz and food night.

The Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron were joined by current NZ Women's Match Racing Champion Samantha Norman who spoke online on her sailing background and was joined by Sara Winther on her recent experiences coaching the Olympics. This was just one of many events organised during the festival. More details can be found on the [Yachting NZ website](#).



World Sailing Activities

eSailing

Alongside physical events and virtual discussions, the Steering the Course eSailing Challenges attracted over 40,000 players across both Steering the Course festivals.

In May eSailors took part in the inshore challenges with races around a virtual Copenhagen racecourse in a Steering the Course-branded Formula 18 boat. The challenge saw over 12,000 participants fighting it out for a place in the 2021 eSailing World Championship PlayOffs.

In October the challenge went offshore with a race from Sydney, Australia to Suva, Fiji. A total of 28,373 players – of which 1290 were female – took part in the challenge with Pascale Grobety of Switzerland the first female sailor to cross the finish line.

Inspirational Women in Sailing Panel Discussions

Two panel discussions were held across the festival to give viewers from across the world the chance to hear from females who have already experience success in their sphere of the sport. We wanted to hear about their journey and experiences to inspire others to continue in the sport.



Panel 1 was held in May and consisted of:

- Mona Küppers, German Sailing Federation President. First female president of the DSV and has held various honorary management positions at the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) for many years. In her function as a member of the spokesperson group for the DOSB Women's General Assembly, she played a key role in enforcing gender equality demands in the member organizations of the DOSB.
- Alessandra Sensini, the most successful female Olympic sailor in history, with a total medal count of one Gold, one Silver and two Bronze medals. Her remarkable achievements have covered three different classes within the windsurfer discipline. World Sailing Hall of Fame member.
- Emilia Tsoulfa, Olympic champion and member of Greek sailing team at Tokyo'20. Rolex World Sailor of the Year in 2002.
- Maria Torrijo Moll, International Race Officer, International Judge, International Umpire; Deputy Principal Race Officer of Tokyo'20, the first, and even today the only woman in the world to obtain the qualifications of International Judge, International Umpire and International Race Officer

- Jena Mai Hansen, Olympic Bronze medallist, Ocean Race Sailor and now Coach with the Danish Sailing Federation and the Olympic team.

The **second panel** was held in October, hearing from women in the southern hemisphere. The panel consisted of:

- Megan Kensington, International Race Officer and member of the race management team at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
- Sarah Kenny, World Sailing Vice-President and chair Sport Integrity Australia Advisory Council, previous Vice-President of Australian Sailing and Chair of the World Sailing Events Committee
- Raema von Reiche, Samoan Sailing Association President and Head Coach of the National squad
- Elfie Holden - South African Sailing Instructor, Head of the Skipper Foundation

Both panels can be watched back on the Steering the Course Youtube playlist [here](#).

Case Studies

World Sailing provided case studies on 4 diverse and successful projects successfully targeting participation and development of female sailors. Videos of the projects in action can be watched on the YouTube playlist and full project overviews can be found [here](#)

- **Snipe Class - Raising Numbers** - Taking a look at the initiatives the international class association has taken to increase female participation by encouraging back to the sport by creating a female-friendly environment with women running events and clinics, family events and low-cost charter fees.
- **The Magenta Project - Mentoring Program** - Started in 2018, the mentoring program has supported young women to progress along the sailing pathway by connecting them with mentors with similar aspirations. This is a predominantly 'off-the-water' project focusing on wider development not just hands on skills, and centres around inspiring talented sailors while addressing issues they face.



- **Sail Africa - Girls in Sailing** - Based in Durban, South Africa, this project supports the Government's National Development Plan by introducing girls from townships to sailing and water safety. Sail Africa works with schools to host a weekly sailing class, established a Sailing Club at Durban University of Technology and introduced programmes to build a pathway through to competition level.
- **Kanto Intercollegiate Sailing Association - Ladies Championship** - The regatta is well-established but female participation in university teams has historically been low. A separate women's event was developed to aid women's sailing in Japan and has become the sailing ground for many prominent Japanese female sailors.

Role Model Videos

World Sailing also wanted to promote more female role models across all areas of the sport. These videos highlighted some key areas of their journey including:

- How did you get into the role?
- What's been your highlight in the role?
- What drives you to get up and come to complete your role each day?
- What challenges did you come across getting to where you are today?
- What advice would you give to someone interested in becoming involved?

Our features included:

- **Tania Elias Calles** – previous Olympic Sailor and now high performance coach with Mexico
- **Alina Stratigiou** – National Judge, Greece
- **Eleni Stamkou** – Coach, Greece
- **Marion Couturier** – Elite Youth Sailor, iQFoil, France
- **Clara Geiling**, Events & communication Yacht Club de la Pointe Rouge, France

World Sailing Trust

The World Sailing Trust hosted a panel discussing Equity and Inclusion in Sailing, comprising of panel members Holly Cova, Bruno Dubois, Jonquil Hackenberg, Dr Lingling Liu and Lindani Mchunu. The panel expanded on a previous discussion exploring and considering recommendations and proactive programmes that should be considered to ensure that sailing starts to more effectively break down barriers to equity and inclusion and encourage a more diverse demographic - both physical and geographical.

After receiving a snapshot of the data from the recent Participation survey, discussion then also featured quotas, mentoring projects and how to change the mindsets of those currently involved in sailing.



What's Next

Feedback from those who took part in the festival was largely extremely positive. A strong social media presence was felt by all. Organising this kind of event during COVID was always going to prove challenging but the diversity in the events organised and the developments in virtual events made this possible.

Moving forward for the festival we will look for a way to provide an interactive calendar so everyone can visit a single place to see the activities taking place.

We will also continue to drive the role model profiles forward, having found these were highly regarded by those who took part.

Work will continue to explore development programs we are able to support and bring in all departments from across World Sailing to see how we can all work together to create more opportunities for females.

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Page 11: 69F training, June 2021 @ The Magenta Project

Page 12: 2020 Hempel World Cup Series Miami @ Sailing Energy / World Sailing

Page 13: Facebook, Kvennasigling

Page 14: Committee boat @ JSAF



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