

# Russian-owned yachts will not appear at upcoming boat show in West Palm, officials say

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 [palmbeachdailynews.com/story/news/2022/03/11/no-russian-yachts-palm-beach-international-boat-show-officials/9426452002](https://palmbeachdailynews.com/story/news/2022/03/11/no-russian-yachts-palm-beach-international-boat-show-officials/9426452002)

**“The Palm Beach International Boat Show stands firmly with the people of Ukraine,” says Andrew Doole of Informa, the event’s producer.**

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Special to the Daily News

Organizers of this month’s Palm Beach International Boat Show in West Palm Beach say no yachts owned by Russians will appear at the event.

In the wake of Russia’s brutal invasion of Ukraine, boat show official Andrew Doole briefly responded this week to questions from the Palm Beach Daily News about any Russian-owned vessels that had been scheduled to appear. A spokeswoman for the show emailed the following statement:

“The Palm Beach International Boat Show stands firmly with the people of Ukraine and with all who are championing progress towards peace. We can confirm that there will not be any Russian-owned vessels at this year’s show,” said Doole, president of U.S. Boat Shows for Informa Markets, which produces the show for its owner, the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County.



Through the spokeswoman, Doole declined to comment further.

At least two superyachts purported to be owned by Russian businessmen dropped out of the show's vessel lineup this week. The two yachts were among the largest that had been scheduled to appear at the show. The yacht roster is published on the event's website and updated regularly.

The yachts — the 224-foot Soaring and the 243-foot Plivs Ultra — were listed on the show's "In-Water Boat List" as recently as 9 a.m. Tuesday but had dropped off it by 10:30 a.m.

The website provided no reason for the withdrawal, but it's not unheard of for vessels, even large ones, to drop out of the show before it opens.

Thursday's boat roster put the number of confirmed vessels at 478, with two stretching over 200 feet and 10 over 150 feet.

Doole did not comment directly on the ownership of Soaring and Plivs Ultra, and the Palm Beach Daily News could not independently confirm who owns the two yachts. But several online sources attribute their ownership to Russian businessmen.



The 40th edition of the show is expected to run March 24-27 along the South Flagler Drive waterfront downtown. The popular event usually draws yacht owners as well as buyers and sellers from around the world.

Unless a yacht owner actively seeks publicity, it can be difficult for outsiders to tell who owns a vessel, according to industry experts.

“They register it in a port away from where they live, in a different country, like the Cayman Islands, for example, and they register it in a corporation name — and sometimes it's difficult to track the ownership of a corporation,” said Michael Rafferty, a Fort Lauderdale-based yacht consultant for sales, charters and new construction at IYC.

The United States and other countries have targeted wealthy Russians as part of their response to the war in Ukraine. In his recent State of the Union address, President Joe Biden issued a warning “to the Russian oligarchs and the corrupt leaders who bilked billions of dollars off this violent regime. ... We are joining with European allies to find and seize their yachts, their luxury apartments, their private jets. We're coming for your ill-begotten gains.”

According to [MarineTraffic.com](https://www.marinetraffic.com), Plvs Vltra left Gibraltar on March 1 and was at sea this week, while Soaring was docked at Freeport, Bahamas.

Plvs Vltra was among the largest yachts in the “virtual” Palm Beach boat show that took place in 2020 after the pandemic scuttled plans for an in-person event.

Plvs Ultra has been marketed for sale in the website of Moran Yacht & Ship in Fort Lauderdale. It is priced in euros at equivalent to about \$104.3 million, according to exchange rates Thursday.

Taylor Craig, Moran's managing director of sales and charters, confirmed Thursday that the yacht would not be at the show. He declined to comment about the vessel's ownership or to confirm that Moran was still representing it.

Soaring is priced in euros equivalent to about \$107.7 million, according to Thursday's exchange rates. A European-based spokeswoman for Soaring also confirmed that the yacht would not appear at the show. But she couldn't be reached for further comment.

