

Credit a distant memory of a TV documentary showing Dhows and larger Booms sailing down the African Coast from Arabia in the winter and back up the coast in the summer. It was an 'Aha!' moment.

We were sailing in waters dominated by monsoon winds!

They made the coastal trade routes possible.

Maybe they hold the key to this race.

That started me a Google search.

The search showed that the semi-annual patterns were valid, but were typical for January and July.

We were at the end of April going into May -- a transition period.

Finally, I found a PowerPoint presentation from a climatologist in Kenya that dealt specifically with the transition of the monsoon in April and May. That was enough to send me toward the Somali coast.

/javakeda