

## The Maui to Mazatlan 2014

Race report by StIngFI

A race full of surprises.

Started on DC set 36h in advance, at which time the southern route with stronger winds appealed to me. Came back after start in time to adjust course tight around Kaho'Olawe.

I believe there were only two of us going south of Hawai'i, me and Garganey.

After rounding Hawai'i I raced mostly on VMC. After 3 days the weather ahead seemed quite encouraging so I decided to put some more effort into it. I still valued my full night's sleep though, disregarding the 22:30 wx. At some point I felt quite lonely with more than 100 nm to nearest boat.

Eight days in to the race some of the (semi)southern group crossed my track with MikiCe in the lead, but he went even further south and was no major threat to me at that point. As my calculations predicted me meeting up with the main fleet on the 21<sup>st</sup> I decided to sacrifice my 8 h sleep for the 22:30 wx (01:30 local). At that point compulsion was in the lead, but after me ending up in front there were some movement in the top ten, and Ricos0 took second place chasing me at a distance of about 8nm. The lead over ricos0 stayed more or less the same time wise.

One day later splitpen, ricos0 and Klyvarn, among others, took an easterly course more straight for the finish line. The rest of the main fleet followed me, i.e. I managed to choose the same route as the top dogs!

The tack on the night of the 23rd was quite critical but I managed to time it on DC with minor loss. Rumskib was gaining and was second after me as we passed the tip of the Baja peninsula. Then rumskib made a move taking a more northern course, and he almost tricked me to cover. Next wx favored the straight to finish option, but then the next one again threw everything on its head. I believe rumskib and some of the others didn't stay alert on that one, ita10267 on the other hand responded immediately. I was half an hour late but in the end it didn't affect my final position.

Splitpen managed to do a similar maneuver to mine, ending up in front of everybody, only he did it at the right point. Congrats to our winner!

The eastern fleet (straight to finish) seemed to be taking all podium places, and it was only about 4h to finish I realized I had a chance to overtake Klyvarn. 1h later with COG set for the finish line I saw there was nothing more I could do, so I bunked (with my fingers crossed). In the morning I found out the final position. Congrats to ita1267 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

According to hmm's data center the podium all sailed quite similar distances:

Splitpen	3100 nm
StIngFI	3196 nm
Ita10267	3176 nm

/StIngFI