

## Race Report:

### Finland-Sweden Archipelago Raid 2014

This was not a race, this was a marathon. The key was not sailing technique but time management. Sort of 'the last boat standing wins', for that to happen you ought to manage your sleeping time.

With so many islands around it is impossible to set more than one, maybe two DC's in advance. So, on my first night I aim to stop at "Yttre Korso". I knew that it would be difficult to try to round the island on DCs so when I was about 2 hours far from the island I aim for the beach and went to sleep. I slept when the boat was still sailing plus another 2 hours on the beach, for a total of 4 hours. That was enough to recharge myself. I lost 6 positions, but as I said, "This is a marathon", the leaderboard on the first night is meaningless. The next day I was restful and got back all but one position back. "karaoke" was too far ahead.

On the second night I got lucky and found a clear lane from "Enklinge to Jurmo" that allowed me to sleep straight for 6 hours. I woke up a happy man. The key there was the "clear lane", not the optimal course. It meant that I pointed the boat clear of the islands regardless of the optimal TWA. This was important. As I was sleeping the wind was shifting and at times the boat was limping at very close to the wind. It didn't matter at all; "zero" was limping to the right direction. Again, forget about your sailing technique, aim to move forward.

At that point in the race the fleet was so spread around that even with "zero" limping for 6 hours, I lost only one position; "Estrellita" passed me. But again, the next day I was as fresh as ever and got back my second place. "karaoke" was still too far.

Unexpectedly, this marathon extend for a third night still. Rounding "Asko", I got very near "karaoke" and started dreaming about the gold. We battled a bit on the downwind leg but he proved to be a fantastic sailor and I didn't pass him, he even extended the distance between us. The last leg of the race, from "Rodloga skargard" to the finish the wind decided to play tricks with us and became very light and shifty. At one point I almost lost my second place to "Estrellita".

As Frank Shorter said after winning the 1972 Olympic marathon; "You have to forget your last marathon before you try another. Your mind can't know what's coming". I must forget this race before the 2015 race.