

The Christmas2Christmas race offers 4 main routes and I don't know which is best, and I even think there is no best route.

Anyway I preferred the route through the Indonesia islands with the option to sail through the Philippines.

As most others I started to sail NW asap into stable wind conditions and sailing west after that. Somewhat in the middle of race I gybed to SW and that was the decision for the Indonesian route. The next weather updates made me bit nervous because the northern routes looked much better but anyway I stayed on my route.

A good decision, the wind stays stable, no blue holes, I didn't BBQ and some morning I found myself in an unexpected 4th place.

The leading boats, aner59 and Franci, were 15-30 miles in front and I had a nice distance to the following boats, but Halibut68 on the 3rd place was less than 1 mile in front of me. I think at that time I switched from OceanRace mode to MatchRace mode, but I may not be the only one who did that!

The much bigger problem was the north group, led by number1.

I had to spend 2 drams of best malt, one for Aeolus and one for Neptune, to get good winds to the finish line and it worked. Finally I managed it somehow to cross the finish line some minutes in front of Halibut68.

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