

What to say? really unexpected to be again commenting a victory of an ocean race; happy? sure! :-)

The day we started, after an hour or so, noticing ita and, even if not so much, rafa and Neuro and others heading south I had for a while the idea to go with him, but after watching with as much care as I can the available forecasts I changed my mind again; he was clearly betting on a course to open up, a risk I decided not to take...in the meanwhile I had lost few miles from the front line...not the best start! During the first week, by that time I was many miles behind BS1 or Solaris on my same route, I headed for a "middle" course, cause since then It appeared to me that the course passing just north of Mindanao and the one passing near New Guinea were almost equivalent, with a comparable ETA changing every wx but never too different. In the meanwhile more than one very tough soler started to head north more and more, at one point obviously heading for the course north of Phillipines, the one I followed last year when I arrived sixth or seventh, I think; but that one didn't persuade me this year...

So days were passing by and my initial indecision, and the miles I lost then, forced me to opt for the southern course near New Guinea, as choosing the other one I would have been irreparably behind many boats.

From then on, I can just say I chose the right moment to head south, gaining a good advantage upon the closer boats, Franci and HappyHour, while those who headed south before were sailing against the wind...

then few days SW, only watching what was happening 1000 nm NW, and just one tack to the finish line

The three different groups coming from north joined again between Vietnam and Borneo, but number1 with a smart tactic gained a great advantage, becoming my only matter of concern... but wind was on my side :-)

Thank You all

Andrea