

Grey whale migration 2015

Race report by StIngFI

Sorry for the late report, but I had some technical issues all related to updates of W7☹

Anyway, it's nice to be in this position that you're supposed to write a race report. The actual writing is not that fun☹ As an engineer you rather write about the technical aspects of the race, but now RC has forwarded a request for some background information, wonder which of you came up with that idea☺

I have been once on a vacation trip to the coast of the pacific in CA. Never though sailed there, and never seen any real charts of any part of it either. My ocean sailing experience is bareboat charter in the Caribbean (as skipper). No background research, because this race was familiar from previous years.

OK. The first thing is to set DC for the start (days In advance, not to be late for start). Next, after getting the final WX before start , is to set up the router (BWR) and start routing. In this race I did use three different router settings, one to next WP or the one after, one about half way and the most accurate some 12 hours ahead. The calculation of those take some 20 min. all together.

In the early stages I didn't stay up/wake up for the 22:30 WX (01:30 local), but when I realized I had a chance for a good position I started to put some effort into it. The race was that intense that my internal alarm clock woke me almost every night. Did set the physical alarm clock only 3 nights due to WP roundings, and only once was it actually needed.

The events in the race, as I see them: The rounding of Mount Westdahl didn't go well as I went wide due to DC:s set in advance as well as not checking the 22:30 WX. After the rounding I was #13 but on this leg I was able to overtake all☺, and as we approached Middleton Island I was in the lead with rafa only a boat length behind me. After that rounding there was some difference in strategy and on that leg rafa was able to overtake. These standings were more or less constant for the next 4 days.

The outcome of this race was settled on the morning of 19.th. For some WX:s the router had suggested to go all the way to the coastline for next gybe and then go inside the island of Cedros. The 10:30 WX changed this and suggested immediate gybe south. I think rafa was late to realize this and that sealed the conclusion of this race.

The final reach to finish line was a compromise between staying in the pressure and not gybing too often. Did decimate the number of gybes the router suggested by 4, since the perf. loss was more than 0.1nm /gybe).

It was a very tight race all the way to the finish line, and only some 3 hours to finish I was sure to win. The timing of the last gybe was critical as rafa was only 0,3 nm behind.

Thank u all for a great race.

"Long Island"

October 24 2015

/StIngFI