

## Cape Town to Rio race report by NZL\_Scotsman

My favourite recipe for an ocean race includes a duration of more than a week so that the weather forecast includes uncertainty, a course that crosses unstable weather systems and very few waypoints to allow a wide range of options.

The Cape Town to Rio race gets top marks.

My fate was sealed early in this race as I set dcs for the start the day before and did not have time to look closely at different options. It was over 8 hours after the start that I was able to see where we were going and what the weather was doing. I was already committed to a southerly or great circle route rather than the northerly route in the river of wind taken by most of the fleet. Indeed, there were very few of us that took the south.

It is a rare event that five of us that did took out the top five on the leaderboard. The south became the favoured route several days into the race when a small band of wind opened up allowing reasonably fast progress, whilst the pack was blocked by the blue. This meant that instead of being a few hours behind, we appeared a few hours ahead when the paths converged half way across the Southern Atlantic Ocean.

Ricotina sailed a perfect race and gained by taking a slightly more northerly route in the first few days. I had hope of gaining a place towards the end by separating from the leading two, but that almost cost my podium place when I ended up with worse wind strength and direction.

My final gybe was crucial in gaining lost ground and I was delighted to finish third on hour or so behind the superb winner Ricotina and excellent runner up Peskasail.