

According to my routing calculations the bet to go South vs North was 60/40 .

So naturally I chose the 60%

What I have learned in SOL so far, is that when the majority of the sailors are going in another direction, then you are probably sailing the wrong route. And that was exactly the case with this race.

After the first couple of days I was afraid I was going to end up in Rio Grande instead of Rio de Janeiro.

Soon, however, seeing the blue moving threateningly towards the northern fleet, I knew I had made the right choice and that I had an advantage.

In the end, when the fleets joined about halfway I had an advantage of about 50 miles from the leading boats of the northern group.

As in almost every open sea race, I have violated the cardinal rule of SOL: Never sleep.

Routing during the night (in Greece) was pretty clear so I never had to wake up to check on my DCs or recalculate my route. Instead, I was downloading (and recalculating the route) the 4.30 utc wx with four hours delay (I slept from midnight until 8.00 utc everyday day) which I think "cost" me some miles.

Apart from that, I was recalculating my route every new wx.

I found myself behind Ricotina before we met with the Northern Fleet and the distance between us remained the same until the end.

This was a race I will remember because it proved what I often say: Sailing is like backgammon. Being the best player you only win 65% of the games. The rest 35% is on dice.

peskasail /November 2015