

Lake Superior Lights 2015

NZL\_Scotsman race report

We have raced around this great lake for many years.

For some reason we race in winter which must be rather chilly. Perhaps the locals miss their real sailing when the snows arrive.

The wind strength was quite stable this year but there were good shifts. The first leg took over 30 hours with the only major course changes being a couple of tacks around Michipicoten Island. There were plenty of minor adjustments through the shifts and I was surprised when my fairly straight course was fastest.

I was even more surprised when I woke after DCs looked after the boat overnight and kept me in first place, but my lead was much reduced. I covered as best I could when awake but IRL interfered over the last few miles and had too many poor gybes.

My usual tactic with a boat with a fat polar is to sail straight. Looking back, this was the way to win. Whenever I sailed straighter than Kenza, I gained and vice versa. I stupidly forgot this tactic when it really mattered towards the end and lost my very slender lead. If only I had found some way to sail 21 seconds faster!

I enjoyed the contest and I'm delighted with my runner up spot.

Chapeau Kenza.