

I don't always get along with the long and coastal, it's fun in principle, but only if mark roundings are at convenient times. I had a quick peek at this course, which did look promising. Then I routed until Hoglandet, and liked it enough to give it a try.

First leg is just a straight line, with the Saaremaa mark rounded just past midnight. Next is an equally straight line to Hiiumaa island, with a late morning rounding. Next is a long upwind drag along the gulf of Finland, where I would hopefully stay far off land all the way.

This sort of upwind sailing is where I know my router underperforms, so this was a bit more tricky hands-on sailing. At first I can ignore TWS because it doesn't really matter above 15kn and focus on playing the wind shifts. A big shift helps with crossing the gulf in one go and reach 60N. Overall my course must have been efficient as I build a small lead.

Now most of the way it's just sticking to the 60N gridline for best TWS, not pretty but it works. And it adds up to a lot of tacks. 63 total I believe. A couple times windshift beats TWS, especially around Hoglandet. That allows for some longer beats. Overnight I trust my DCs to dodge all the tiny islands.

The final decision is which way to pick around Kotlin Island at the gates of St. Petersburg. The optimum course is over the island, and I can't quite decide. The other contenders make it easy, everyone goes south, and in doubt, cover.

Thus I earn my first win in a while, never really pressured but hard working.

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