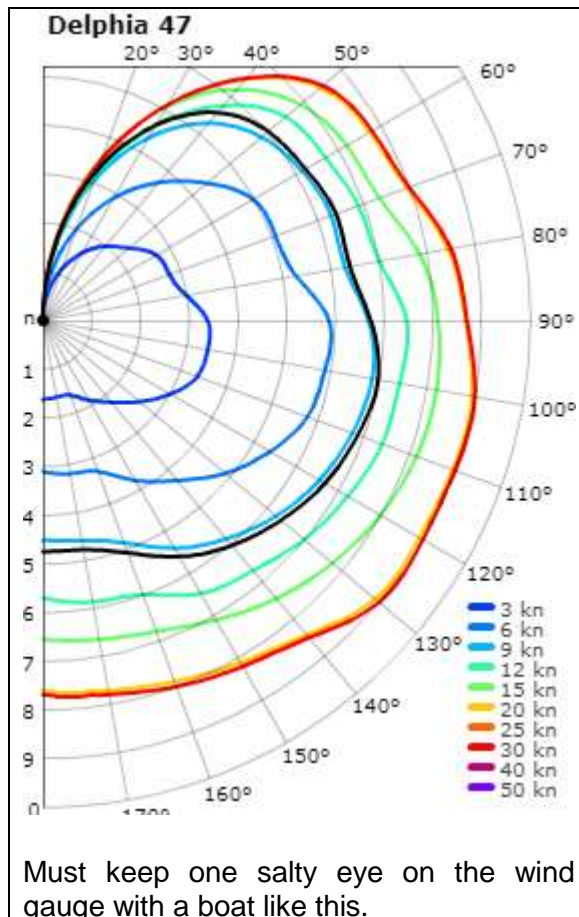


One might think that a 170nm straight run across the Bay of Biscay with a stiff following breeze would be fairly straightforward. Not so this year. Between the shifty winds on the course, and the dynamic polar of the Delphia 47, it was a race of many small adjustments.

For much of the race, I stayed to the port of the lead pack, this cost me a bit of distance, but meant that I was the first to find the freshening winds. As we began to turn to make the rounding at St Pierre d'Oléron, the unique polar of the Delphia really started to make itself known. I'd normally start shaving off corners within a couple of miles of a rounding, but here I'd hold my line a little longer to stay on the polar bump. Dying winds kept those bumps moving, making for an interesting last couple of hours.

In the end, it was a tight finish with just 12 seconds separating the podium. Perhaps I could have managed those polar hops a little better, but with **HappyHour** just 5 seconds behind me, I was afraid to try anything too radical.

As always, thanks to the SOL team for putting on this fun virtual cruise!



-longreacher  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018