

Shackleton Challenge 2018 – Leg 3

In general I like races over (relatively) open waters, but this was especially intriguing, because rowing was allowed. How would that change the usual routing? And the beginning offered a lot of rowing conditions.

I noticed that my routing program (qtvlm) still wanted to tack with a tacking angle of 48° even though the polar showed a perfect circle for that wind speed. When I noticed that, I just set the compass course that qtvlm suggested for after the tacks and rowed right into the wind. I may have gained a little bit again the boat next to me, who tacked.

Later I had to deal with the issue that qtvlm didn't know about all the islands at the tip of the antarctic peninsula. So I learned how to set boundaries just in time. I cleared the tip of Joinville Island in 10th place, if I recall correctly.

Many of the boats in front were further east and thus had a worse wind angle in the end. Great gains were possible for me in this last stretch. Too late I realized the the farther eastern end of the finish line was the preferred end.

If I had steered for that earlier, first place may had been possible. But congratulations to Desmos to this excellent race sailing using the wind shift on the last miles perfectly.

Dunbur over and out