

Sail around Turkey 2019

Call me a glutton for punishment, but the Sail around Turkey race is one of my annual favorite races. I set out this year in an effort to improve on finishing 10th last year. At the start, the weather took us to the north in the Black Sea, although one update gave us a glimmer of hope for a more direct route, the next update had the northern group taking the long way around. A large portion of the fleet did take the more direct southern route but ultimately paid for it.

Unlucky for me our group arrived at the Bosphorus Strait while I was in a monthly sales meeting and unable to get to my laptop. Fortunately, I was able to negotiate the straight with the Android App with only one BBQ.

Crossing the Sea of Marmara was pretty much straight forward but entering the Dardanelles Strait late at night I decided to set a straight-line course almost dead down wind that would result in the loss of several positions. Alas, my DC's set to exit the Strait resulted in my first overnight stop at Hamidiye waking to find myself about 25 nm behind the leaders but still in the top dozen.

My next stop would be the result of another series of failed overnight DC's. I awoke in the port of Karatoprak. I'm sure it's a nice place, but not on my itinerary for this race. At this point the leaders had headed west for stronger breeze, but I followed a course similar to the race winner WRmirekd passing just to the west of Rhodes.

The rest of the race is a bit of a blur. The leading boats compressed as we rounded Kas and Antalya thanks to light and squirrely winds. I'm still not sure how I ended up on the podium. Rafa probably would have finished 3rd had he not had to gybe (or was it tack) at the finish. In any case, I look forward to the Sail around Turkey in 2020!

With regards,
Garagiste