Perce to St Malo 2020 - report from boat Batatabh

What a race!

I love ocean races, most so because there is the smallest chance of BBQ, and I can sleep or drink some beers between the WX updates.

In this race we had a tricky chicane between Miquelon and St Pierre, the point after which we faced the ocean proper and the hard choices of route.

Using a router is something great. Like in a chess game, we have to think ahead, and I still have a lot to learn on this subject.

Particularly in this race I was doing 3 wx change route updates (16:30, 22:30 and 04:30) but in the last 6 days I began to do the 4th one during the Brazil night, trying to stay in top 15.

Different pathways split the fleet into 2 mains groups. I chose the south one (not too south) and it was lucky.

Almost in St Malo (+/- 200nm), the router was leading us up to the north to avoid light and head wind, but at the 04:30 wx update, a gybe was anticipated, and for sure, a lot of the good sailors miss that change.

When I woke up to check my boat, I was in 8th place, with a challenging weak wind to cross to get to the finish.

I moved up to 5th, making me more than happy but then I saw a chance to gain some more positions, and for the last 12 hours turned off my Autopilot and started to chase my friend Mirek and his General Eletric Turbine equipped boat. As I was better positioned in relation of Mirek and also SimeMali, I was able to jump to 3rd!

Very happy and looking forward to the next one.
Thanks SOL for the fun.

Batatabh / May 2020