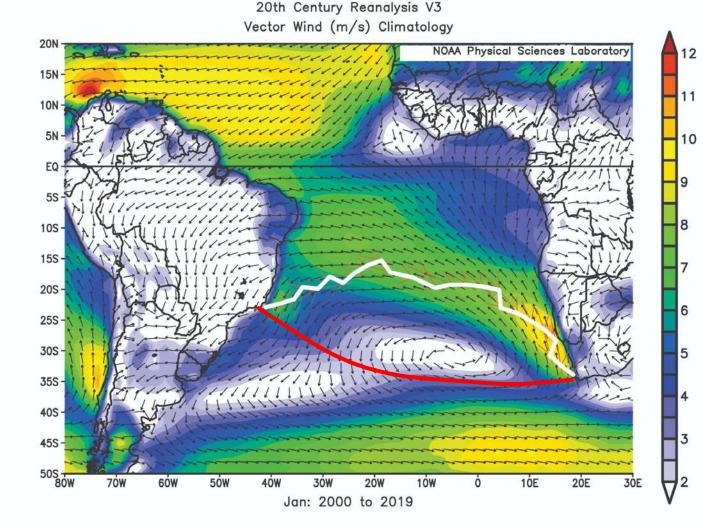
# The Road to Rio

#### Intro

As usual for an ocean race, I downloaded the historical winds which, in terms of speed, seductively pointed to a northerly route.

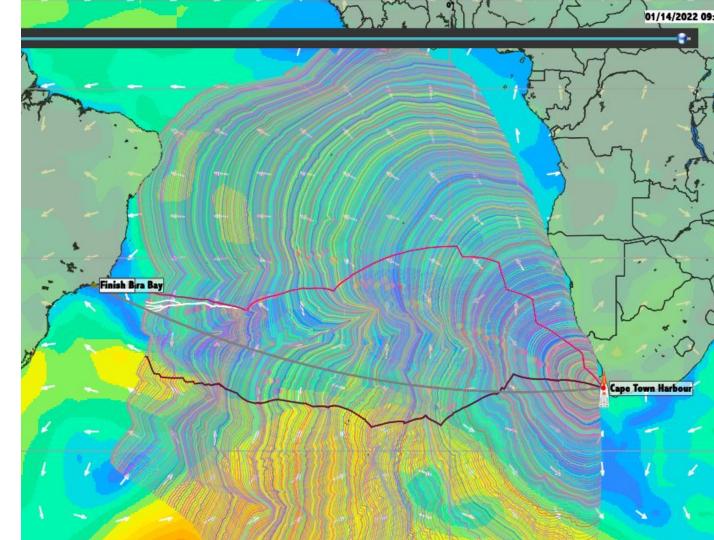
Not being able to import the historical GRIB, I manually laid out the best downwind VMG across the course resulting in the white sawtooth. Rhumbline is in red.

But QT had other ideas and I resolved to follow her lead with occasional tugs on the leash.



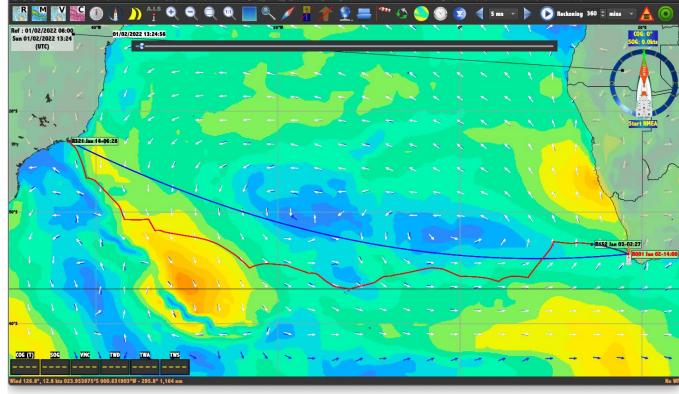
### Head scratching

In the days before the start the route varied wildly from the northern course, uncannily like my manual routing, to a south of the rhumbline course.



#### Commitment

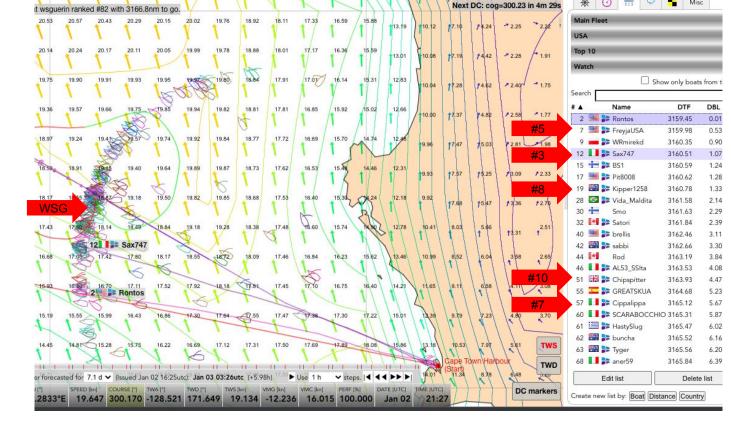
My final pre-start route pointed northwest then a gybe back southwest and a long haul west to Rio.



#### The scattering

Some of the top ten finishers are shown in this image just hours after the start.

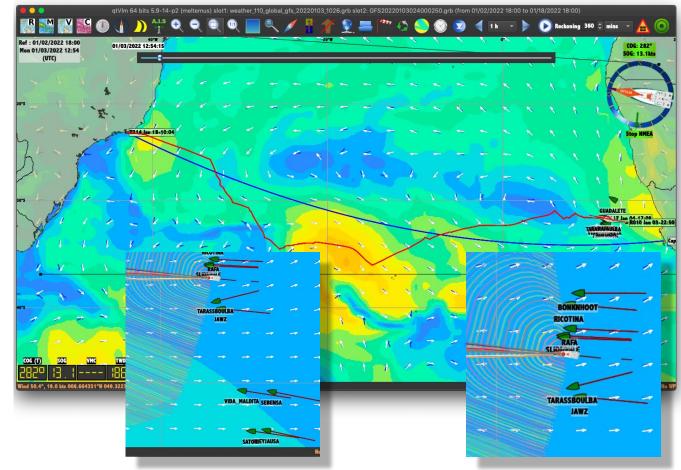
WSG is in 82nd and finished 22nd.



#### Mid North Fleet

Routing settled down a bit once we started and were off shore.

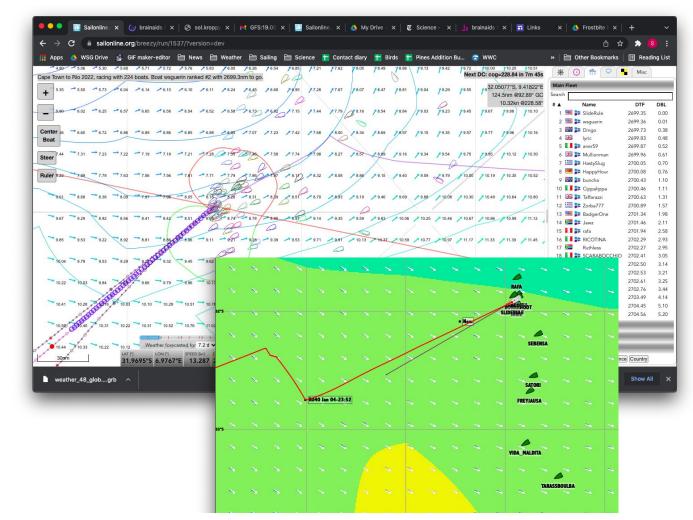
A small QT tip: I like the rhumbline drawn on the course.You can draw a line between POIs by right clicking on the starting POI and "Draw a line to another POI" selected from the dropdown mark menu.



### The Gybe South

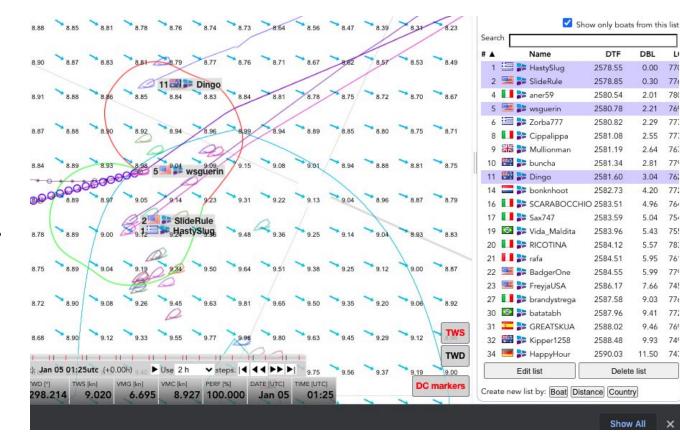
I typically ran full courses using a 1 minute crank, with isochrons of 120 minutes for greater than 24 hours and 60 minutes for less than 24 hours. Then I'd run 10 minute routes for 2-3 WX out.

If I saw better wind on SOL's chart, I'd set a near POI in that direction. Like an addict, I favored 24 hour speed over the long-range course, a fatal mistake!



#### The Doubts

QT's done me right, No reason to fight But Hasty and Slide give me doubts Do I follow them south? Or stay my own route? Is Dingo on track in his night?



DBL

0.00 770

0.30 774

2.01 780

2.21 76

2.55 77:

2.64 76.

2.81 774

4.96 764

5.04 754

5.43 75!

77:

770

2.29 77.

3.04 76:

4.20

5.57 78

5.95 76

5.99

7.66 74!

9.03 770

941 77:

9.46 76

9.93 74

11.50 74:

L

### **The Decision Point**

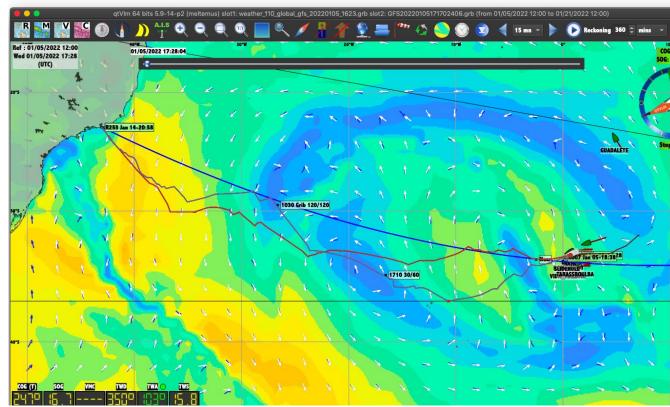
January 5th, 1630 WX was a key point in the race. The wall of blue meant heading south around it or north.

I opted north and it looked good for several days.

#### A message to you QT

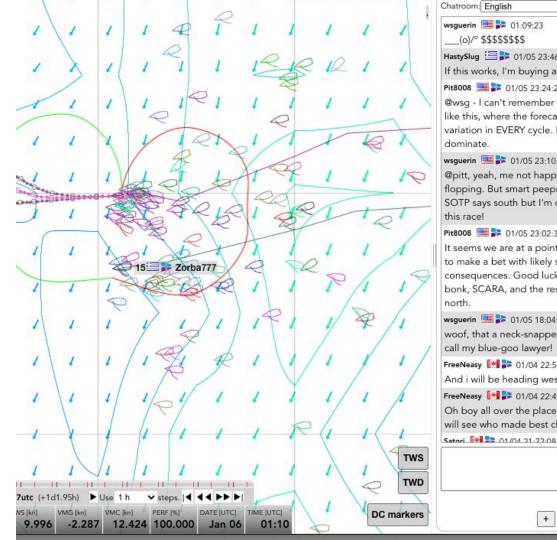
Stop your messing around; Gotta think of my future; Time to put in a route; High Pressure's giving me doubts; Cue Tee;

A message to you Cue Tee;



The Split

As can be read in the chat. there was a fair amount of discussion on which way to go.



Chatroom: English ~ wsguerin 🔤 🔰 01:09:23 (o)/° \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ HastySlug 🔚 🎥 01/05 23:46:50 If this works, I'm buying a powerball ticket Pit8008 = 01/05 23-24-24 @wsg - I can't remember another long race like this, where the forecasts have so much variation in EVERY cycle. No strong system to dominate. wsguerin 🚟 💦 01/05 23:10:59 @pitt, yeah, me not happy with the flip flopping. But smart peeps r going both ways. SOTP says south but I'm on a short QT chain this race! Pit8008 = 01/05 23:02:34 It seems we are at a point where we all have to make a bet with likely significant consequences. Good luck to Hasty, wsg, bonk, SCARA, and the rest of you heading north. wsguerin 🔤 🔰 01/05 18:04:31 woof, that a neck-snapper and more to come, call my blue-goo lawyer! FreeNeasy 19 2 01/04 22:51:04 And i will be heading west in 20 minutes FreeNeasy [+] 2 01/04 22:49:43 Oh boy all over the place but the next while will see who made best choices

+

#### North-ish

Here's a Jan 6 0110 view of our positions in the mid-North. There were quite a few skippers further north, Guadalete comes to mind but they quickly fell back.

Below, the chart shows the top ten in the north at Jan 6 1203, finishing positions are shown in the red circles.

Clearly, Mullion and Bonk bailed at some point! I would love to know what they routed, anticipated, or guessed at this juncture.



