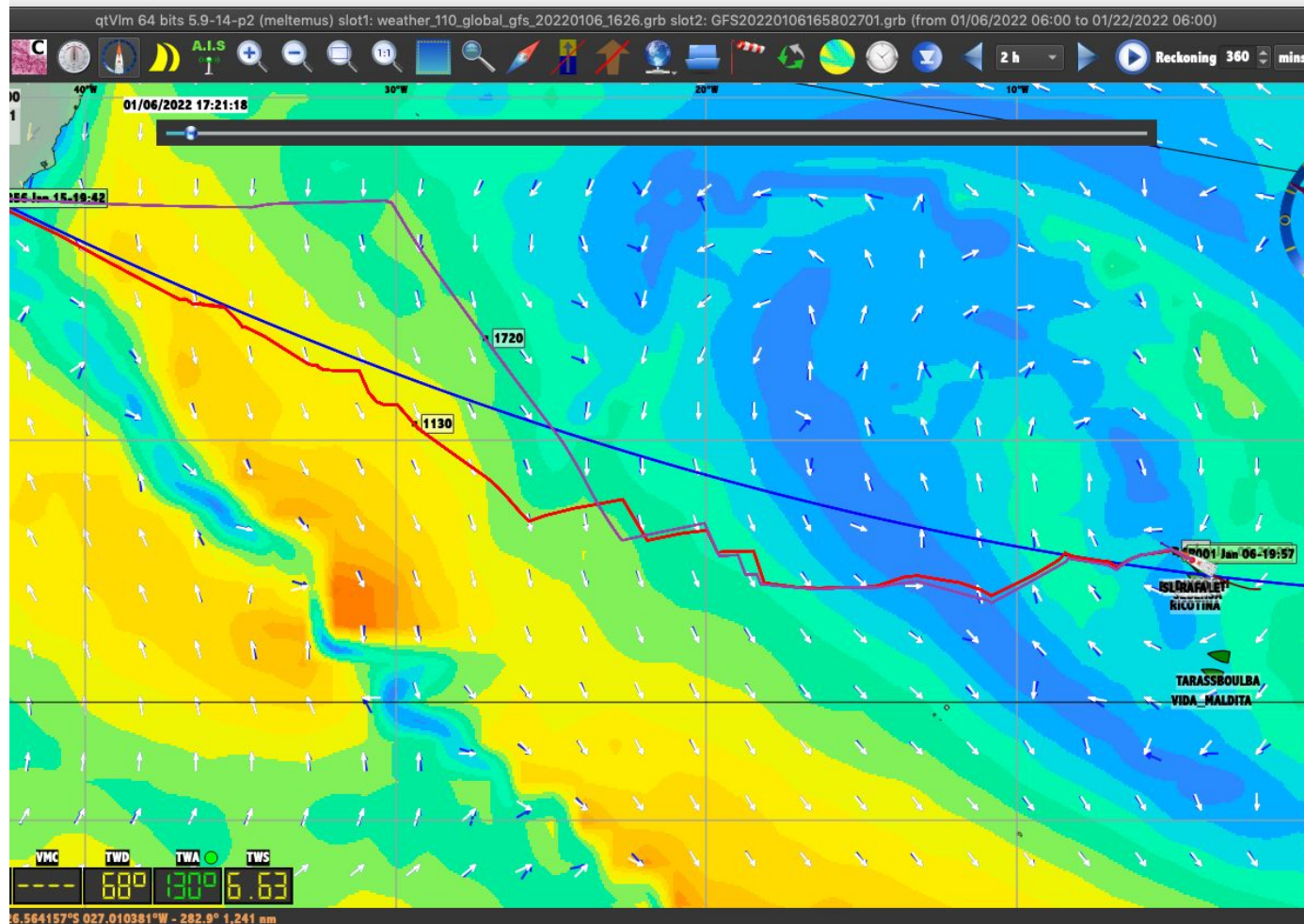


Phase 4

Take your lithium QT

Jan 6 1720

Various insane routes continued to be proposed a few days out, but the near term was stable through the blue wall ahead.



Phase 4

Gambling

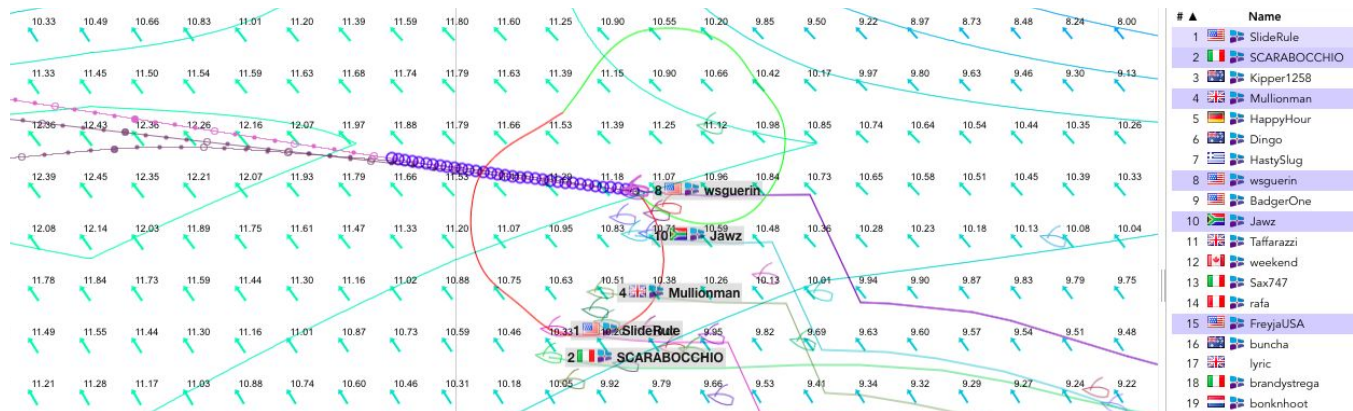
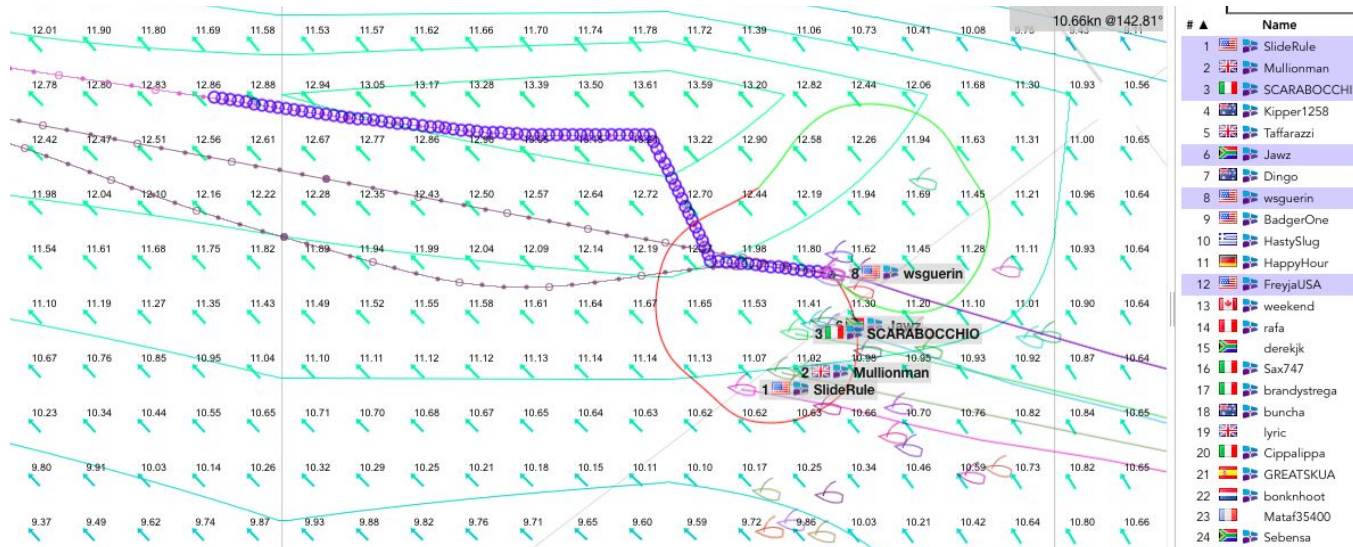
Jan 9 0153

WS continued to stay on the North side of the North-ish fleet.

In the upper shot, the DCs show me heading toward a slot of wind that eventually paid off as shown below.

From another race but relevant:

*To the isotach's sharp pointy ends
One sails toward although it depends
If one is asleep
And alarm you don't keep
The missed updates will not be your friends*

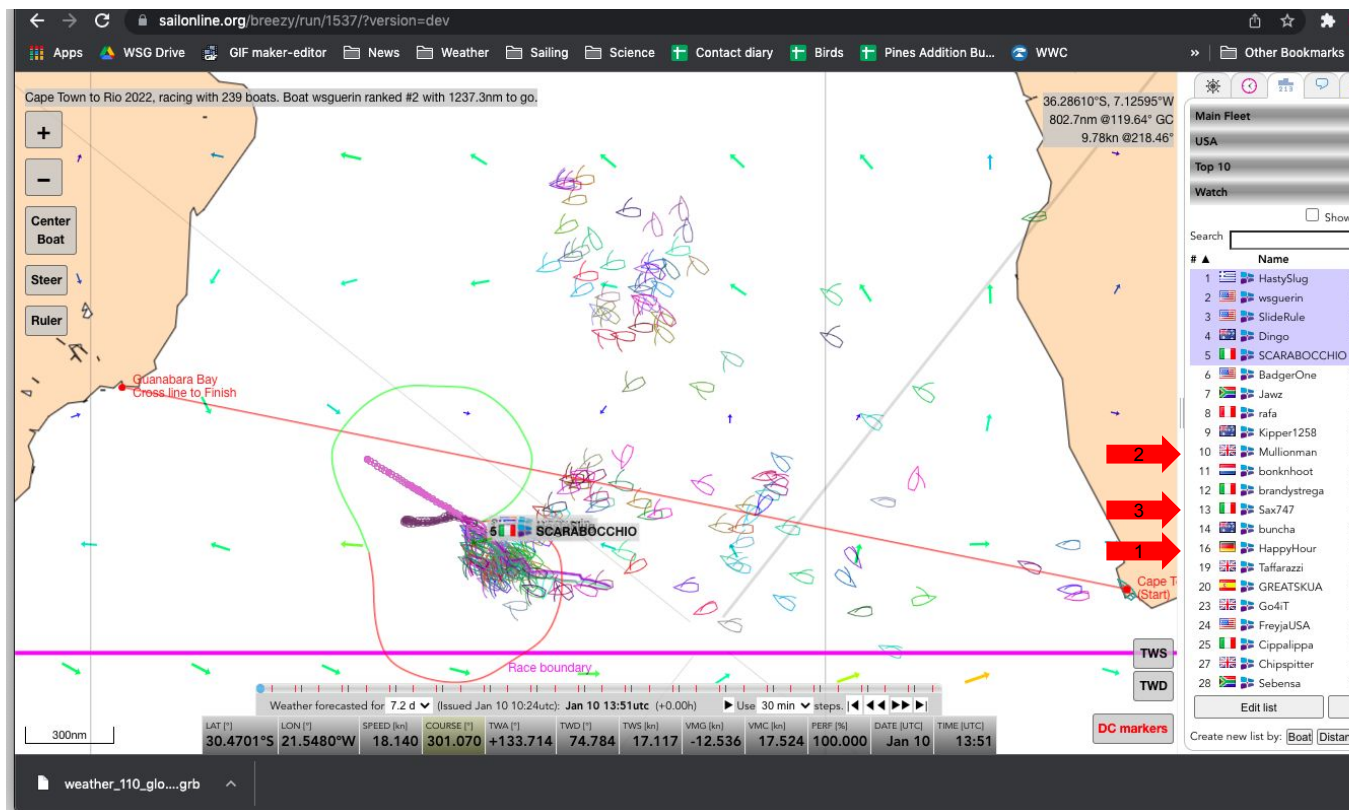


Phase 5

Lay of the Sea: about half-way there

Jan 10 1351

Fleet distribution spanned
1,500 nm



Phase 6

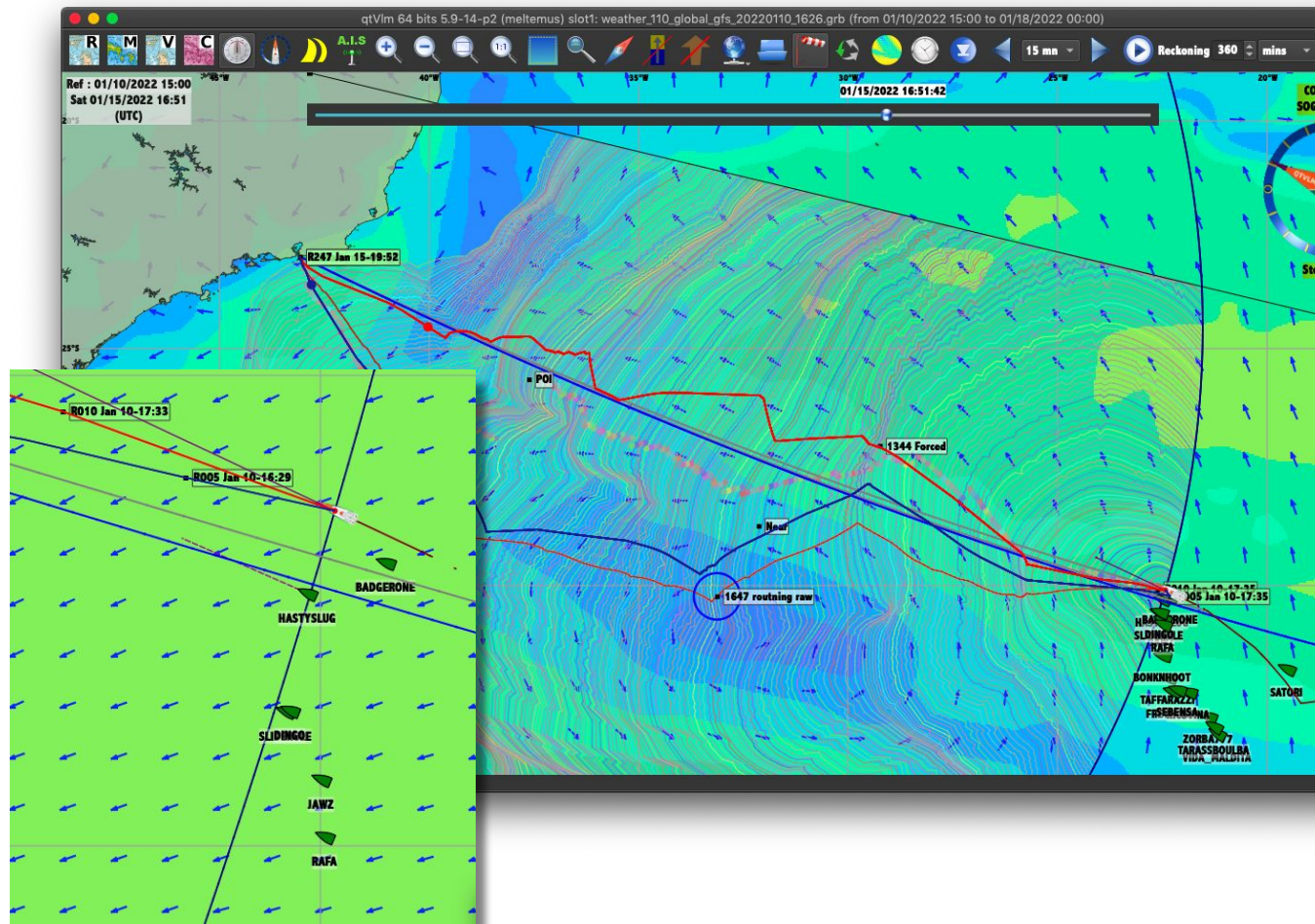
Pressure

Jan 10 1735

QT has a feature that draws an Orthodromic circle from a POI to your boat. This is how SOL calculates rankings.

I used barriers to reduce route calculation time and found that the Ortho circle was dynamic and followed my boat.

I was now up for every WX, the hardest being 0430 (1130pm ET local) determined to try everything to hold on. I did a northern test routing but I would be following the most southern route.

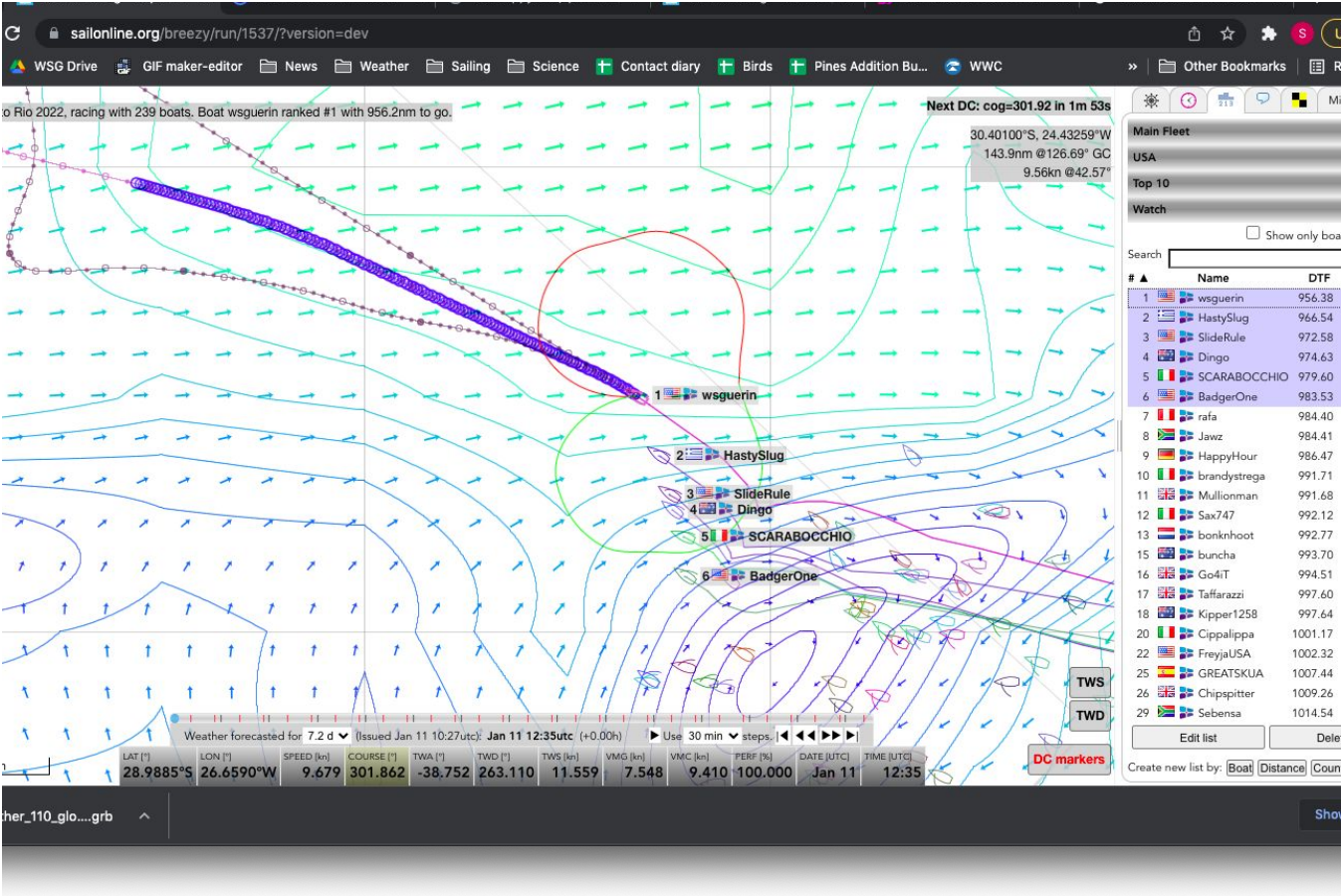


Phase 6

Into the Lead

Jan 11 1235

My gamble had paid off. Winds on the North side were stronger; my fingers and legs were crossed.



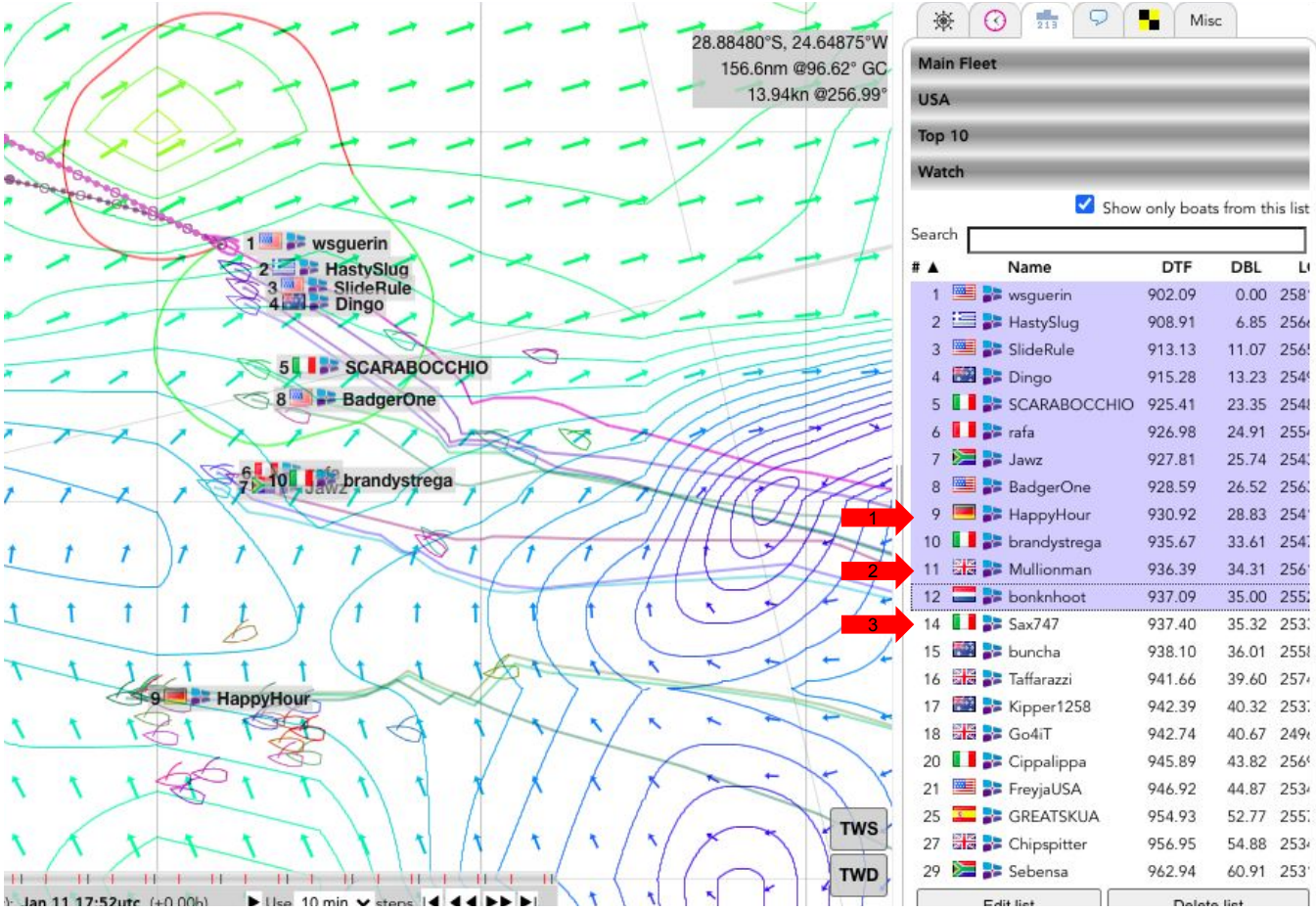
Phase 7

The South Makes Their Move

Jan 11 1252

Slowly but surely, the southerner's patience was paying off.

Their angle to the finish was going to be better even with stronger winds to the north.

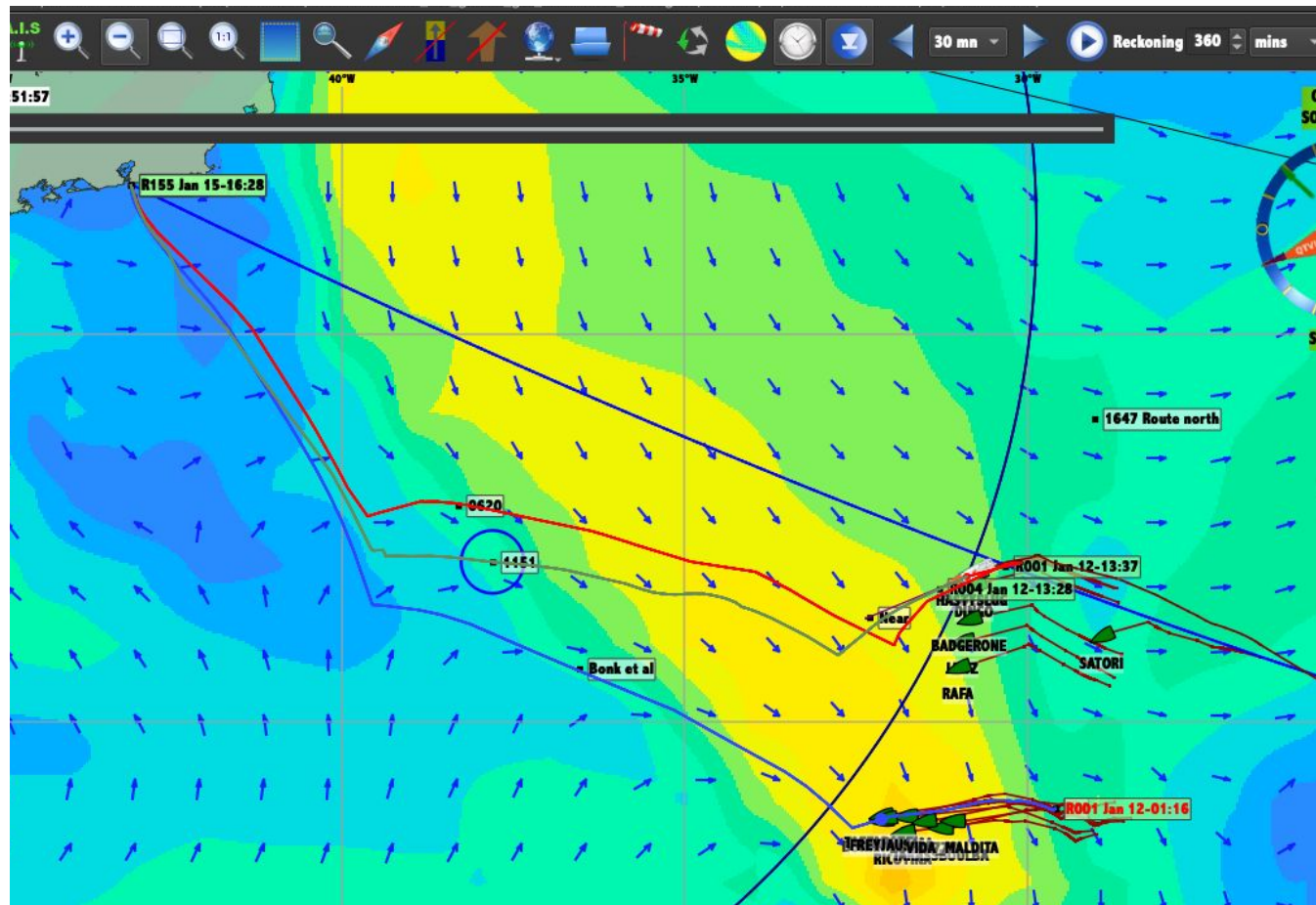


Phase 7

Closing in

Jan 12 1151

Here, the northern group and southern group routes are shown and at this stage, the South wins by 30 - 45 mins.

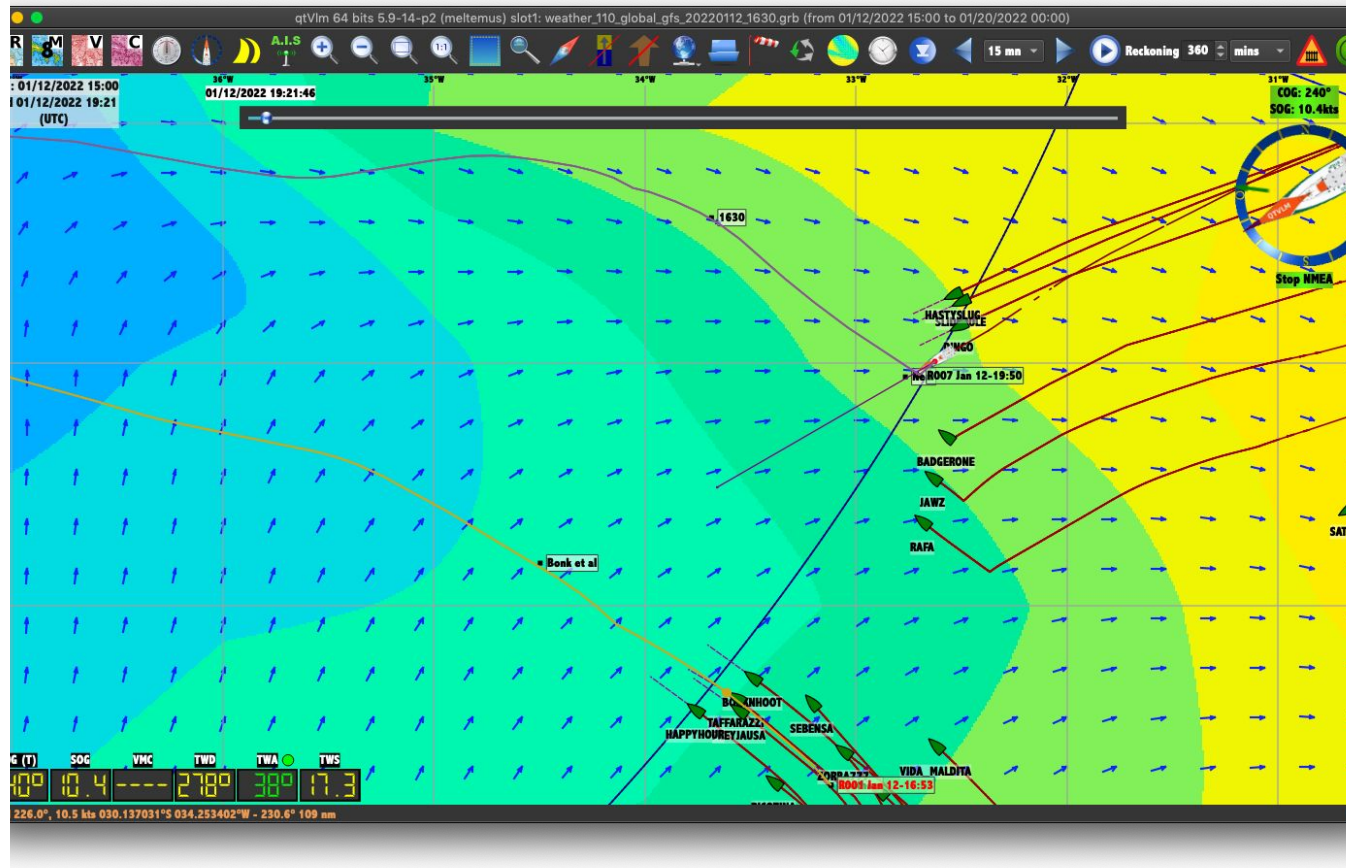


Phase 7

Happy Hour Breaks Ahead

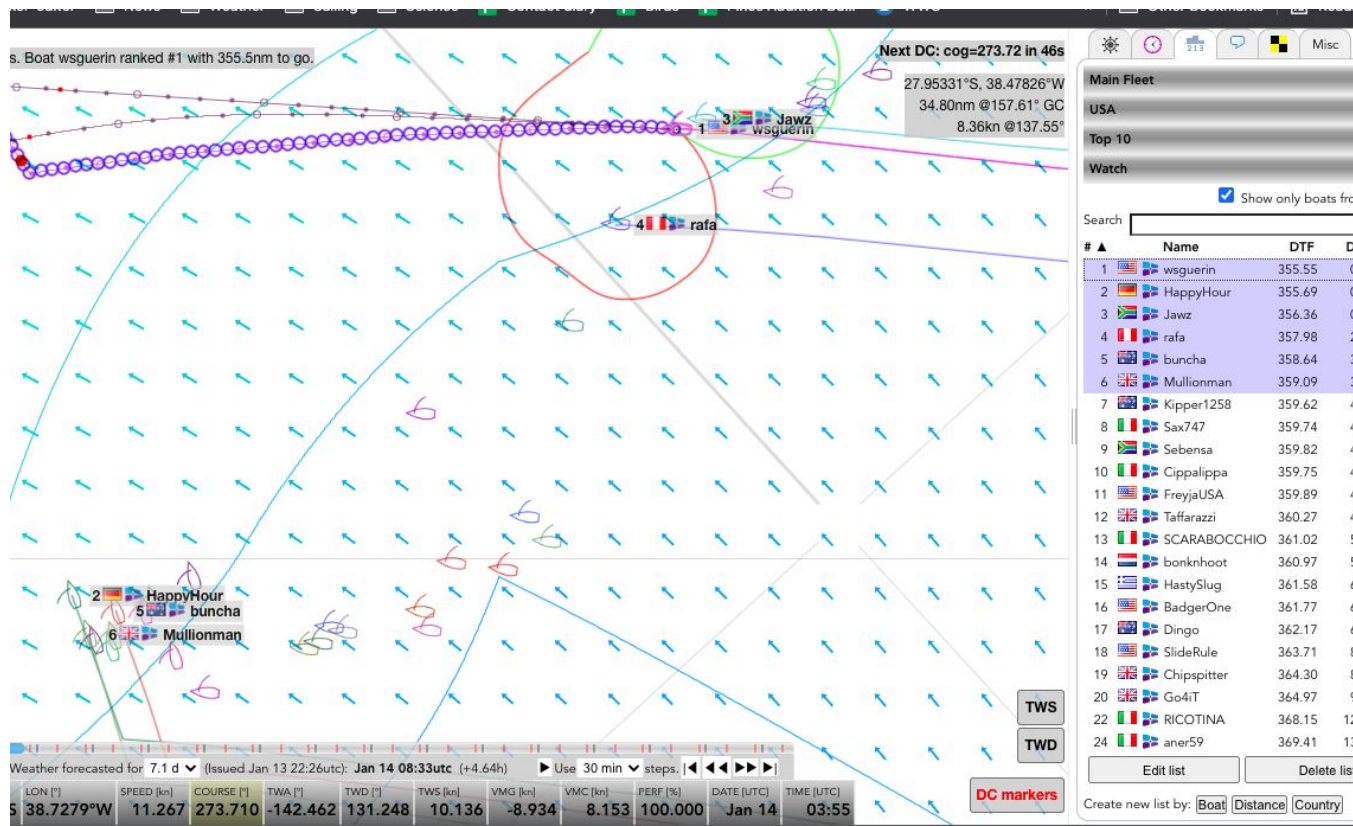
Jan 12 1921

Happy and others, with good VMC and angle have ground it down. The die is largely cast and the north group can only watch.



Last Gasp

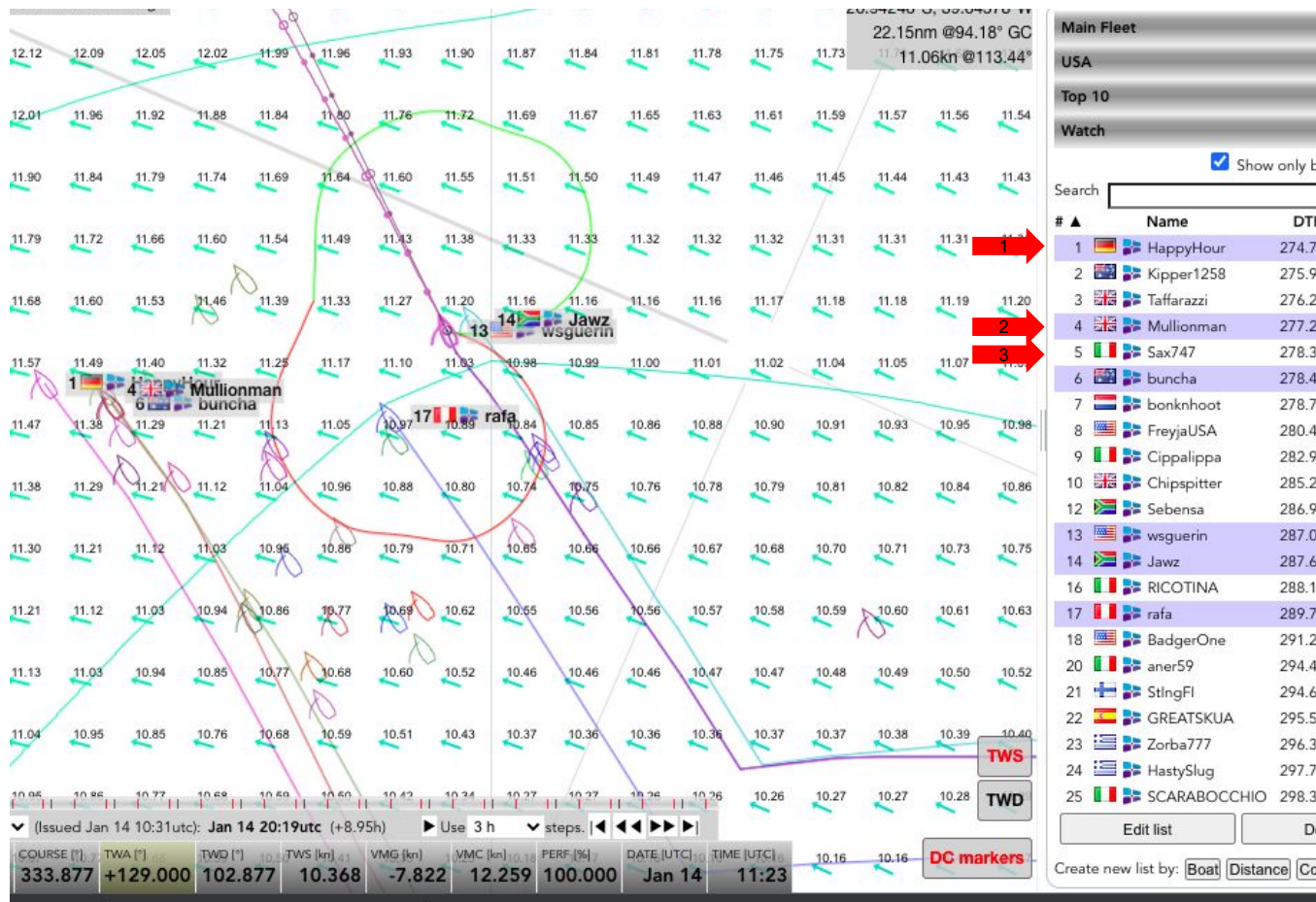
I had a last dose of podiumization but knew the writing was on the wall unless the wind swung wildly against the recent WX stability.



The Fat Lady Sings

Happy overtook and the podium was in place. I wrote:

*Wind slips the sails
Like a sheet through hand
Sometimes a grip takes hold
And you drift on ahead
Sometimes (k)not*



Phase 10

The Finish

#1 Happy Hour 01-15 13:41:12

#22 WSG 01-15 14:42:02

Thank you to the SOL team for creating this amazing platform and kudos to the podium! I now know the pressure, thrill, and despair of holding a lead then losing it. As Bonk once told me "you have to pay attention to the details."

By Pitt

@wsg, the American bard
From the mid-South he went
North, and sailed hard
He led the podium for days
Until there came a blue haze
Oh, how the Weather betrays

