

Wellington to Hegura: flight of the Godwit

After the first two Ocean Races of the year, which did not bring the expected results, I decided to take this one very seriously (i.e. not jumping updates). The route seemed to be pretty straightforward, with a long stretch in stable NE wind. The tricky point was to get out on the high pressure system as soon as possible and to get a good position in the long reach before Japan. I got out pretty well of the blue, with a couple of nm lead over Dingo (it could have been more...but I made a small mistake in deciding the route around one of the Marquis Islands) but I made a wrong decision so for almost a week I had less wind compared to Dingo, Tarass and the other who decided to sail a longer route (in the end, only 12nm difference in the logged distance). When we reached the Sagano Island waypoint Dingo was ahead by something like 10-15 minutes. I had to find a suitable attack strategy, and a nice blue bubble lingering around the SE coast of Japan provided the desired option. So I decided to stay on a higher course hoping that the bubble would move faster in the SE direction. The gamble paid well and at the next crossing I emerged just a couple of ticks ahead of Dingo. Then my fellow competitor took a gamble on its turn, but it was not the right choice and we arrived on the finish line separated by only 60 seconds. Amazing after 6000nm!!!

Andrea
(a.k.a. ita10267)