

## **Cape Town to Auckland: Race report**

This leg is one of my favourite ocean race. Usually, soon after the start, I focus my effort to decide how south of Kergeulen Island the route will pass. This year at the beginning I thought I was not going south of 52S, then soon it became 56S, then 58-60-62... unbelievable, I knew that going too much south was coming with the danger of headwinds or very light breeze. So when I reached almost 64S I decided it was too much! So I went for an early tack (almost 2hrs earlier than aner59 and rumskib) and that was the decision that allowed me to lead the pack until Cape Reinga and the finish line. Too easy but it was not like that. Meanwhile CollegeFund, Flamingo and few others decided to stay much higher and found themselves in very strong winds with angle close to optimal. The gain was enormous and for a moment I thought they were going to make it. Luckily the wind rotated in our favor so the last 2000nm to Cape Reinga allowed us to close the gap and gain a solid lead!

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