

Hegura to Anchorage 2024: Race report

Second leg of the series. As usual in the days before the race I took some time to study the weather pattern. As we are sailing a superfast boat, the risk of missing the right system to follow was very little. On the other hand, the approach to Cape Oma appeared to be complicated in slowly rotating and dying wind. I knew that building some distance would have been a major bonus for the rest of the race. After the start it soon was clear that a maxVMG approach to cape Oma was not the right thing to do as there was more pressure in the middle of the strait. The issue was to decide how much overshoot of the layline was needed. I decided for 15 minutes, other boats went even lower, few boats gybed early on the correct layline. Router was asking a couple of gybes but given the severe perf loss I decided to push the boat downwind at maxVMG for a couple of hours to compensate. That turned out to be a good idea and I left Cape Oma with some advantage. The rest was more or less a drag race, looking to maximize VMC and trying to be in the best covering position. At the end the gap between first and second was a mere 45 seconds, just like a 3000 nm sprint race!

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