

XMAS2XMAS

It's the last race of 2024 Ocean Championship. Few sailors arrived with hopes to win the series: ita1026, SCARABOCCHIO, Dingo and StingFi among all the others were the ones with the higher probability to get the top spot. Among myself and SCARABOCCHIO it was basically tied. That meaning that I needed to finish in front of him and at least 21st to get the championship.

I studied the course carefully, routing the three possible options with the help of pilot charts. I excluded the middle option very quickly as it involved some blue at the beginning and then nothing but upwind sailing till the end. North and S approach were basically equal in terms of length but the North route had a long stretch of reaching in very strong seasonal NWesterlies, while the S route had a dangerous crossing of the ICTZ before the end.

Only a very deep depression north of NZ changed a little bit the picture and StingFi blackcat and Kipper were able to hook it perfectly. At that time the south route showed some advantage. Which fortunately disappeared 5 days before the end.

So it was among us northerners. CriticalHippo and Ricotina were fantastic to emerge the treacherous waters before Taiwan with a huge lead but all I kept in mind was covering all SCARABOCCHIO's moves.

It was not my usual way of sailing, and I had to ditch many options in order to stay close and not lose the opportunity to stay ahead of my friend competitor's moves. I believe I did the job quite well and only the last gybe, which I could not cover, threw some uncertainty in. So I decided to lose some ground in order to position ita12067 between SCARABOCCHIO and the finish line by only 10-15 minutes.

CriticalHippo and RICOTINA were already on the finish line, but I managed to secure the 3rd spot and with that the 2024 OCCH.

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