

Vendee Home - Cape Horn to Olon 2025 - Race report by Smo

This was a joke .. starting 34 hours late was not expecting that. I have a feeling I have said that before but that time it has been just because I did not really believe succes in a long race as I don't usually do good in those, sprints are more Smo style. And because of that, did not collect much material but thanks to StIngFi I got some race pics so let's try to remember what happened.

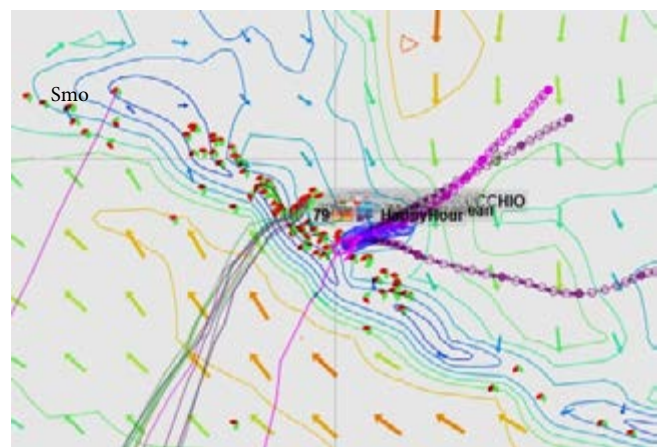
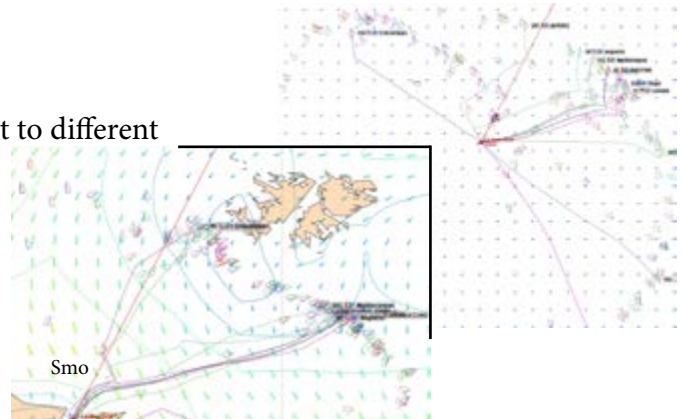
Some sreengraps of StFi pics

There was not much wind at start time and all boats went to different directions meanwhile Smo was at start line.

At second pic leader sailed over 260nm and Smo finally got moving almost 20nm going west of Falklands seeing winds building there. Then my plan as usual was to get to frontline as fast as possible and find overtake place or hope lucky winds.

There was some blue barriers that might have helped just a little but Smo did not really climb much even though went propably much straighter route than front people trying to overtake on west side :)

When coming to the east point of Brazil I was pretty west and the fleet came closer to me so I gained little but I was still pretty far behind.



After Brazil I was around 40 nm behind ScaraBoo and the most western boat in fleet.

I sailed lower than fleet ahead to get speed as it was the only way to get even close-even. I also tried to go pretty straight even if weather sometimes was no meanwhile rumskib et al. made pretty heavy course changes.

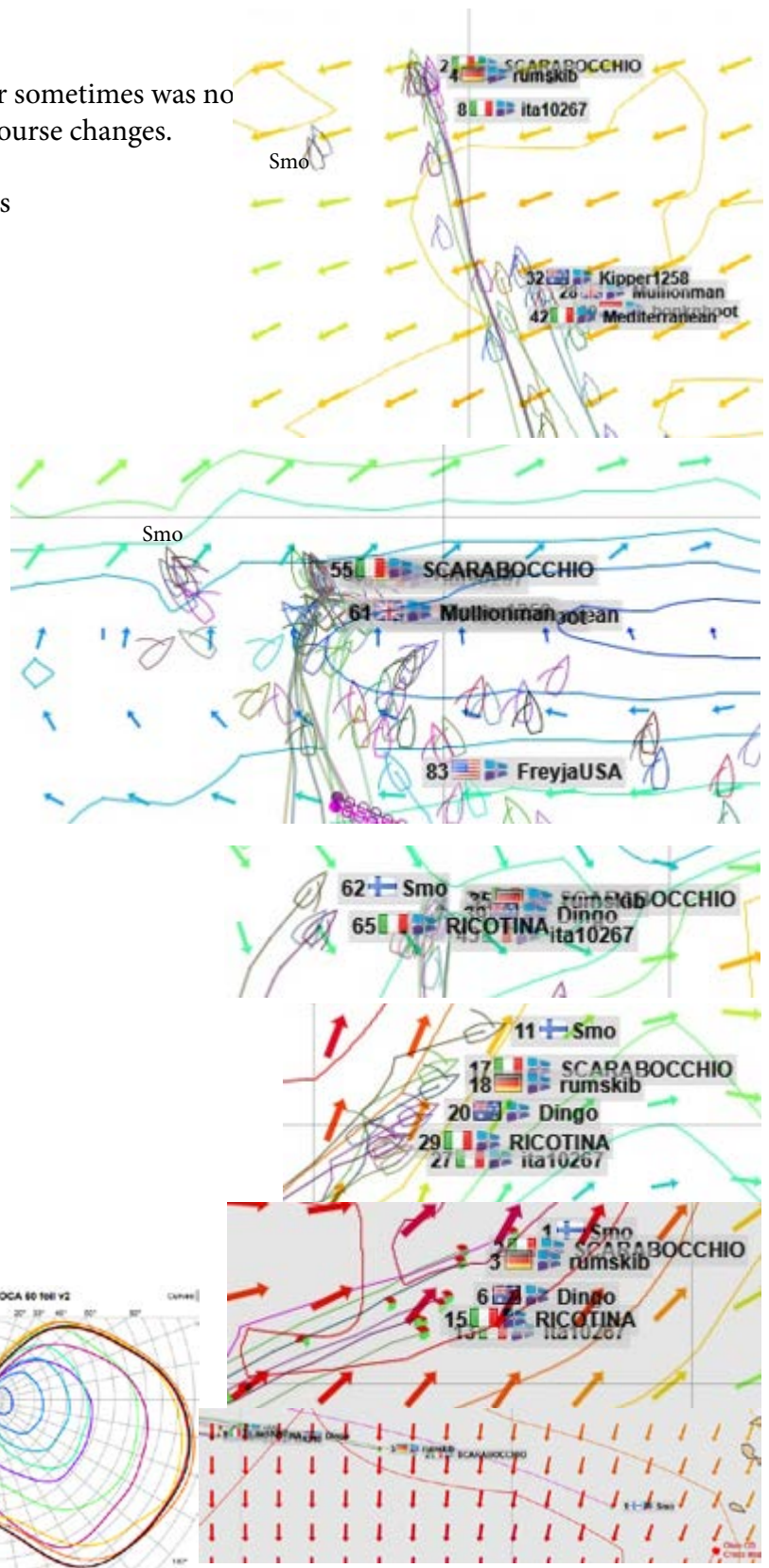
Gilles joined me but also crossed in 20 minutes in front of me going even more west leaving door open for me.

Then came last blue and I was in good spot to cross it

I came out into good wind angle and to get catapult winds

fast forward foiling

Approaching winds that start to slow down boat.. was afraid to get violent winds as polar starts to slow down somewhere over 30 kn winds. But it was very fast all the way to finish, maybe 1500nm surf on foils.



That's about how I remember, probably have skipped and forgotten many happenings during race. Managed to keep usual suspects and very hungry Italian fleet behind. I counted over 10 faster boats than Smo behind. Very happy finish and a race to remember. Congrats to ScaraBoo, rumskib, top 10, all finishers and The Italian fleet that almost had five boats in top ten. Thanks to StIngFi for pictures.

This race is dedicated to Tyger, Rob Neilson, have good eternal winds.

Smo (in ice skating & balloon sailing mode).