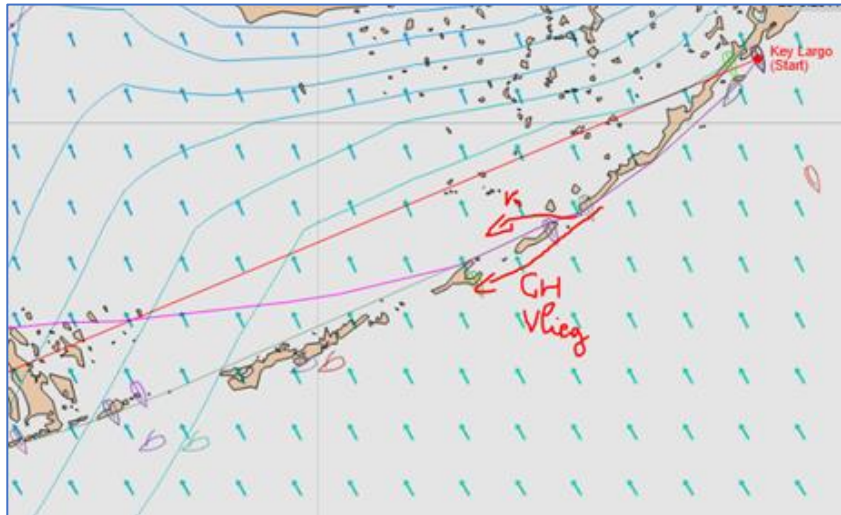


## Red Eye - Key Lime Pie-gatta 2025 - Race Report by KaSToR

This wasn't too long a race to get back into the swing of things after a period when I wasn't present enough to manage a race effectively.

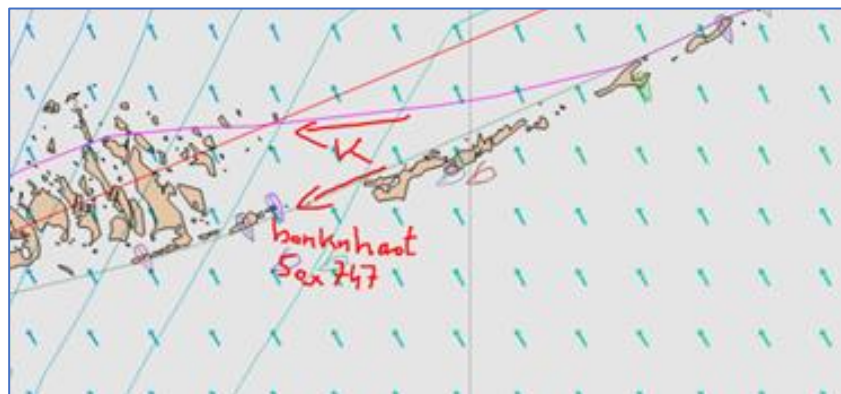
So here we are at the southern tip of Florida for a 180 nm course off the Everglades. The start is in Key Largo, around Crawfish Key and return to the coast near Marco Island. Depending on the weather, it could take a good day to reach the finish.

We leave Key Largo at 12.00 noon heading south-west, but the first choice is whether to go north or south around Rodriguez Key. I opted for the south, making the route a little longer, but offering a better angle to reach the coast of Upper Matecumbe Key. It turned out to be the right choice, even if the differences were minimal.



Abandoning Vlieg and CriticalHippo, I opted to go north of the Overseas Highway and skirt it from the north in order to reduce the distance to cover and take advantage of a slightly stronger but less well-directed wind.

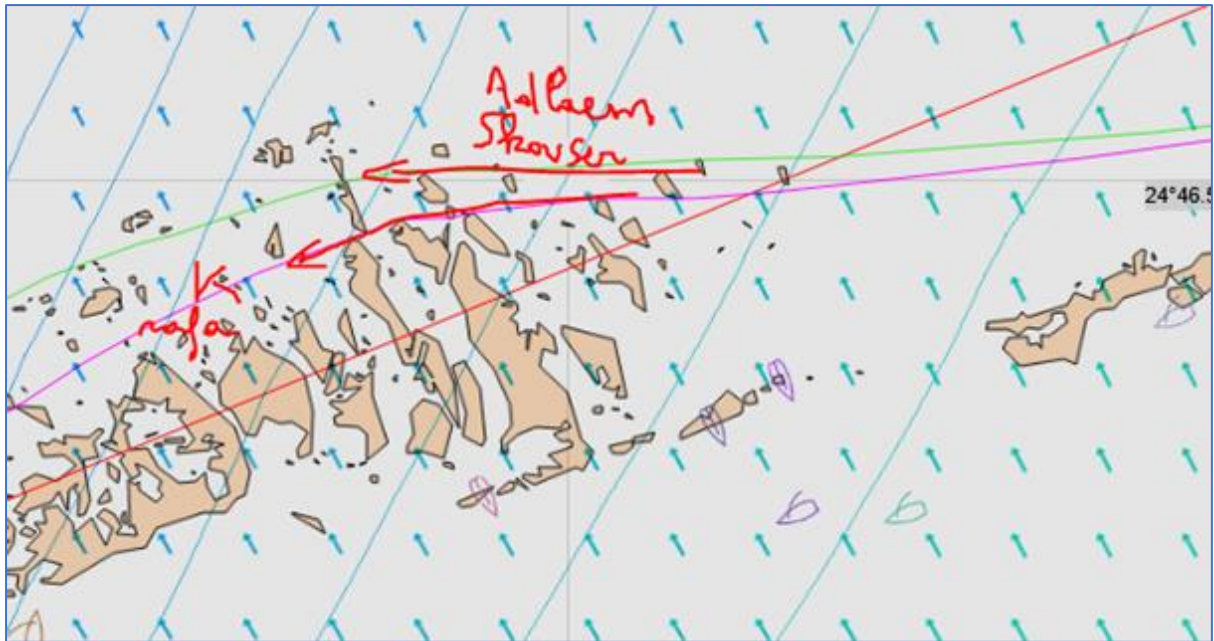
2.45pm, time for the grib! And then, what had been foreseen happens, the router tells me to change route and go north of Big Pine Key, which I think it would be indecent to give a photo (and there's no point translating it into French; it might attract a crowd!



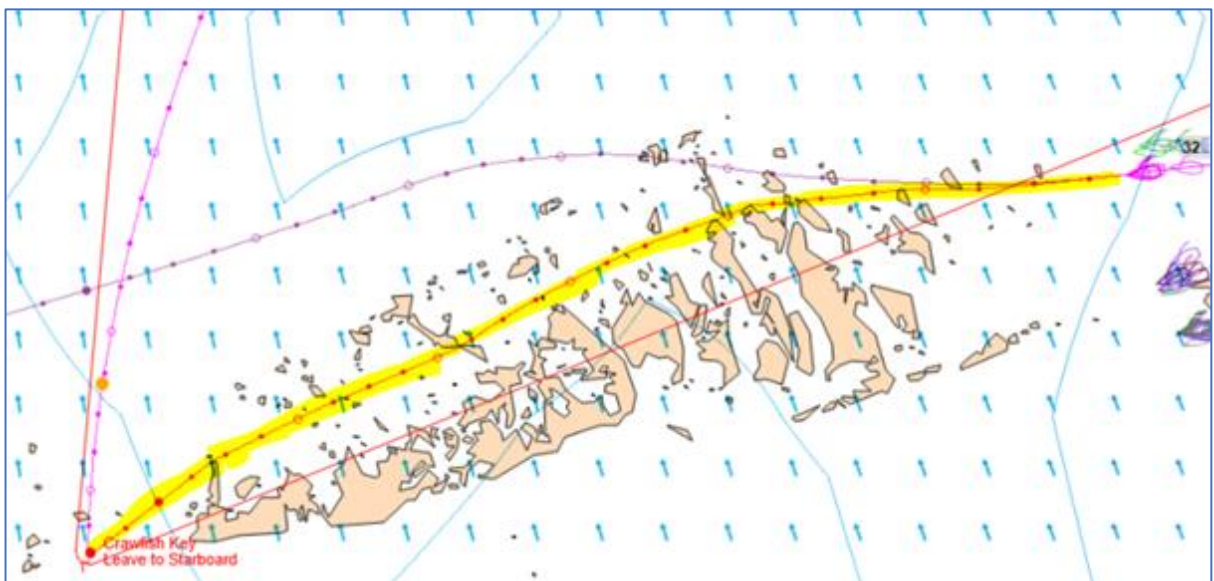
The decision was made and I headed north, this time leaving bonknhoot and Sax747 to continue heading west.

Not many of us have chosen this option. Skovser, Adlaem and rafa are heading for the very north of the archipelago.

As long as I'm in between the rocks, and even if the router doesn't tell me to, I prefer a slightly shorter middle route, which seems to offer a better angle all the way.



I'm joined by rafa, who changes his mind. But a little late, I find myself a few minutes ahead.  
 The die was cast and all I had to do was manage the passage of the rocks.  
 The result at the Crawfish Key buoy was straight ahead!

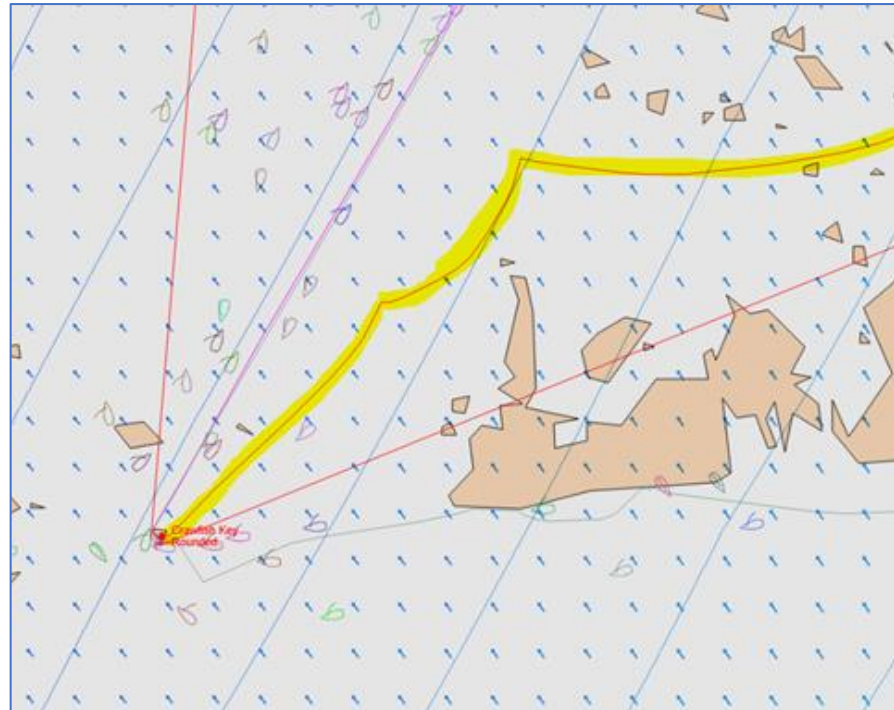


8.45pm: time for the grib! It's not straight on anymore!

I'm having a fit!

We'll have to tack and gybe during the night!

But after analysis, my option seems to hold and I see two big advantages in it : I'll be able to sleep peacefully as the manoeuvres are far from the coast, and the passage of Crawfish Key and the time of the next grib are around the same time!



And that is tomorrow morning. Quick, off to bed!

Wake-up call 04:40.

04:45, time for the grib!

The northern option, and my intermediate option in particular, was the right one, and I arrived at Crawfish Key first, followed a few minutes later by rafa and a little further on Skovser and Adlaem. The southern group, led by bonknhoot and Sax747, didn't arrive until a little later.

All that remains is to climb back up towards Marco Island, favouring the stronger winds to the east and then north.

It was during this ascent that rafa, probably thinking he was a Brazilian pilot, tried to go too fast and gave us a straight shot instead of the expected gybe, losing a place in the top 10 in the process.



2.45pm: time for the final grib!

The grib makes almost no changes, which is remarkable!

I really enjoyed this race, which was short but intense in terms of choices and weather changes.

Thanks and congratulations to my most direct rivals, but also to those to the south. It creates uncertainty during the race and satisfaction when a choice is confirmed.