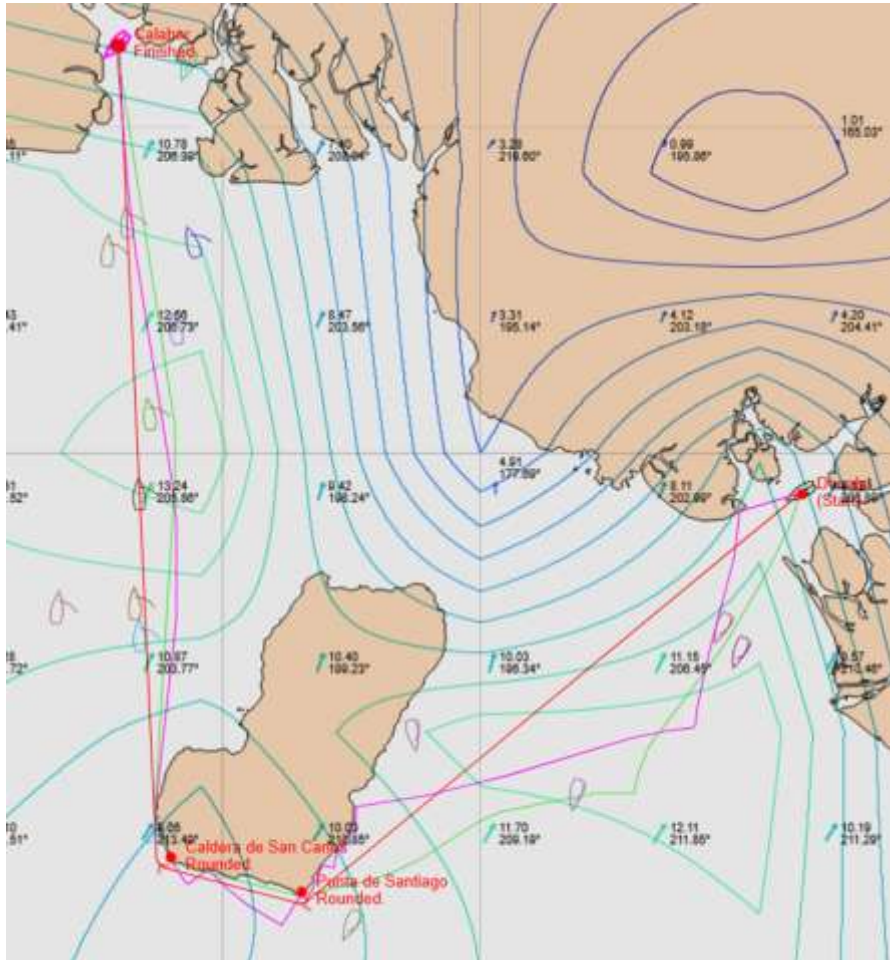


Bight of Bonny TIMED Race 2026 - Race Report by KaSToR



The playing field is an area with headwinds that can be moderate up to 15 kts.

For the first part of the course, wind strength is only of relative importance in terms of the polars (zone 1).

The important thing here is to have a wind angle that allows you to plot the shortest possible route.

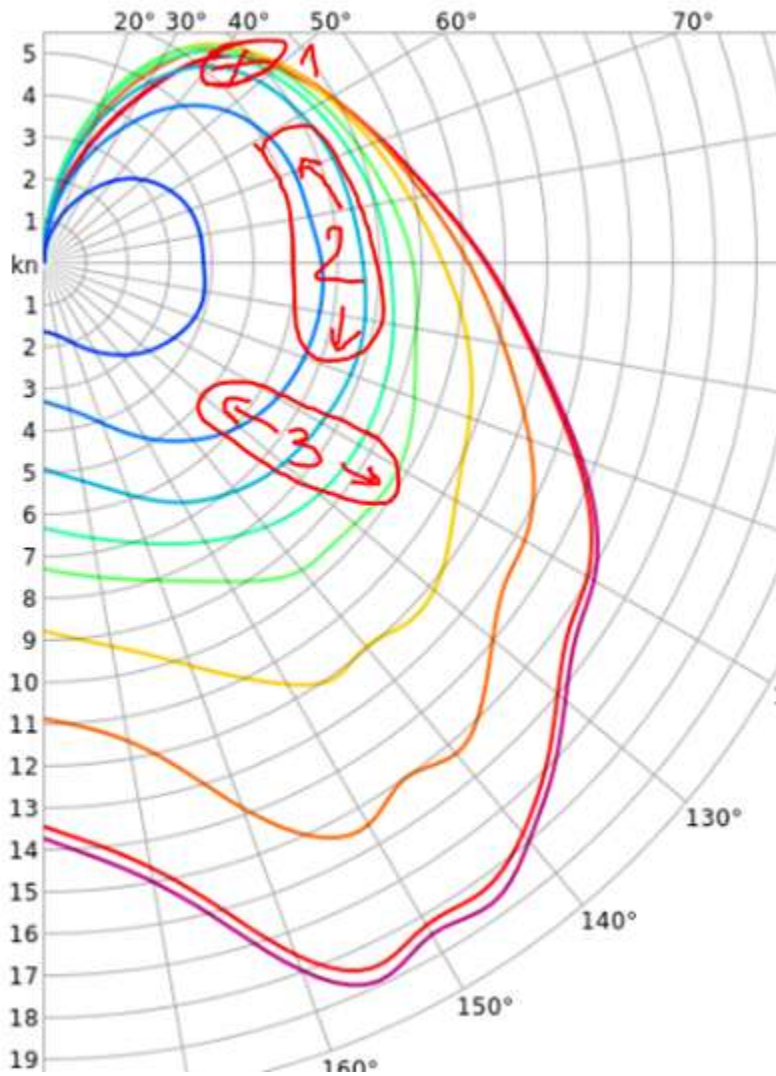
The passage south of the island is made with a lighter wind.

Obviously, the more wind there is, the better (zone 2 of the polars), but it is especially

important to pass with a wind that is not head-on in order to avoid having to lengthen the route by tacking.

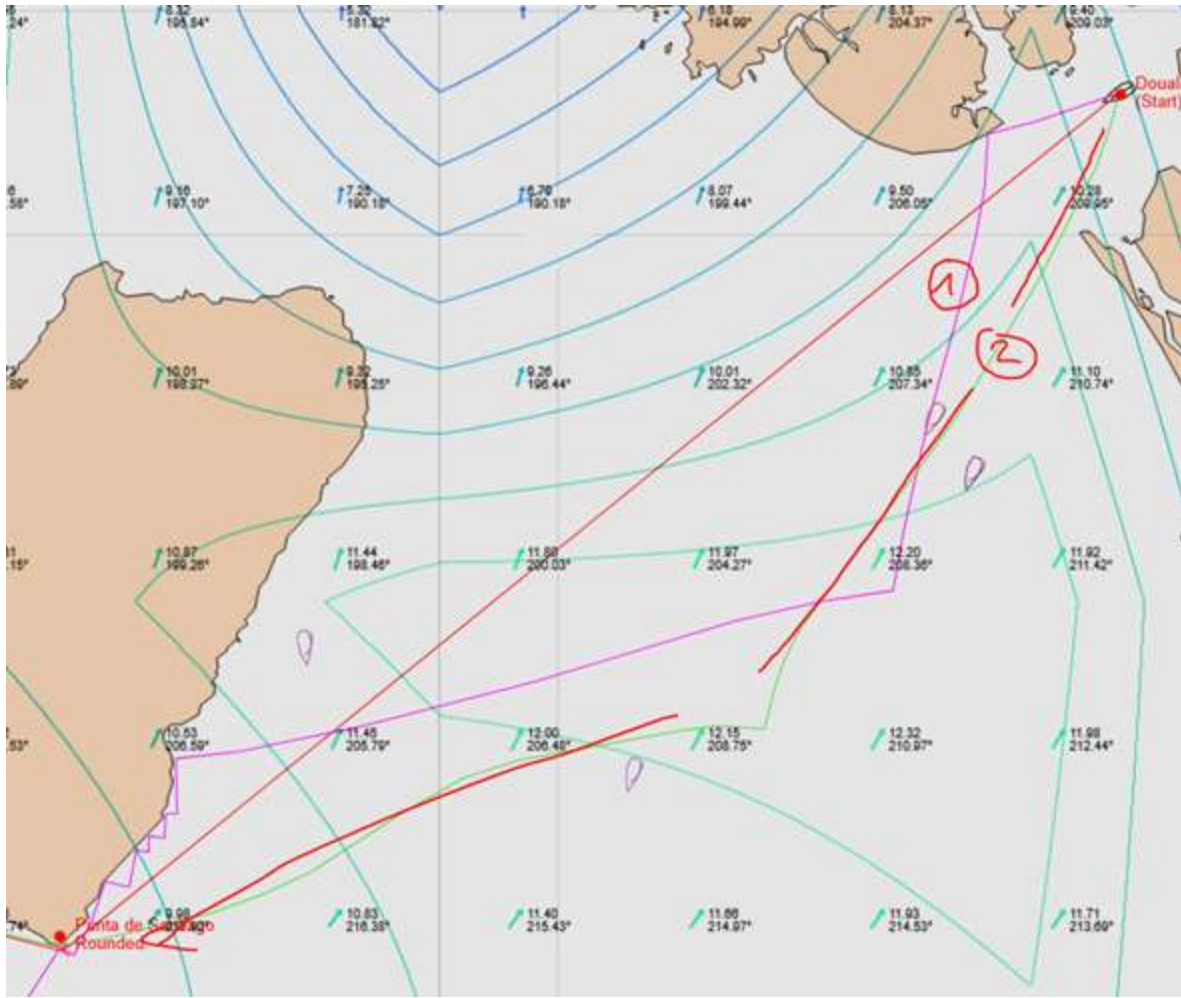
For the return to Calabar with winds more than three-quarters behind, and considering the polars, wind strength is the predominant factor here (zone 3). It is therefore necessary to try to have the strongest winds possible.

Given the season, the winds are very changeable, but it was possible to hope for a maximum of 15 knots.

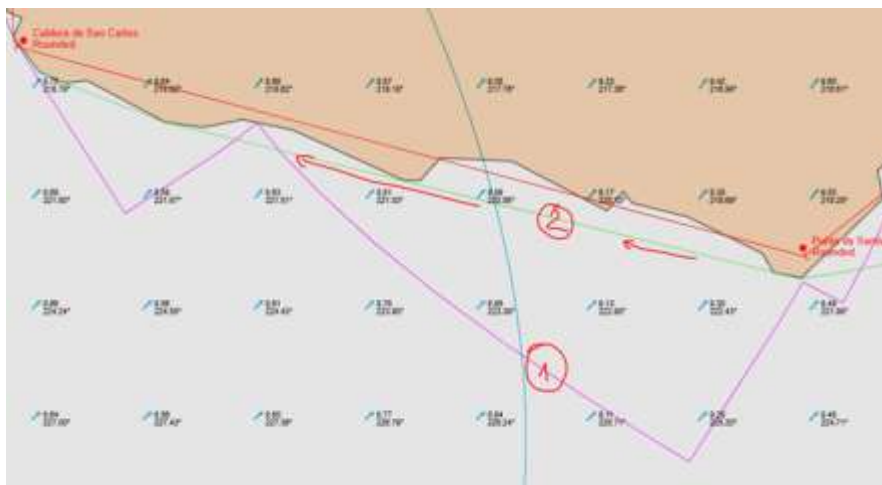


Comparison of the routes taken by the two skippers:

On the first part of the journey, the skipper who made the right choice was clearly skipper 2, whose route was approximately 6 nm shorter, saving over an hour in travel time.



For the passage around the island, once again skipper 2 made the best choice. His route is once again shorter and the gain here is still significant.



For the third part of the race, the two skippers' routes are essentially the same., only the strength of the wind allows for a difference in time.



And yet, despite this, it was skipper 1 who won the race!

The reason is simple: on that day, I had a window that promised me around 26 hours of racing. My timing for the start must have been poor, as I lost two hours on the forecast. Skipper 2 is Number1. He set off during the last window before the race closed, a window that looked so unpromising to me that I didn't even attempt it (I had something else to do anyway).

On the other hand, he certainly set off at the perfect time and must have sailed extremely well, so much so that when I got home and looked at the race, I realised that victory had slipped through my fingers.

What must have saved me was that, during my best attempt, I set off at almost the same

time as Sassy. This pushed us both to optimise our sailing as much as possible. In fact, we finished just a few seconds apart. That's most likely what allowed us to stay ahead for a few insignificant minutes compared to the 28 hours we spent at sea.

The difficulty of this race came from the length of the course in an area with relatively weak and changeable winds. To complete the course, we had to rely on 5 WX, which made forecasting very complicated.

So it was a somewhat unusual timed race, but not uninteresting...

Thanks to Sassy, because I think it's thanks to him that I'm in the lead, and well done to number1. His race and timing give us food for thought for the future if such a race were to come up again.

KaSToR – January 2026