
West Papua to Oregon 2026 - REPORT -

Hi SOLers,

as you know, I like Ocean Races, but when I saw this one, which lasted about two weeks, I thought it would be a very boring "Ocean Race for Routers" ...

When it became clear that the only possible route was the North one, the first problems arose, and I was very discouraged: the boundary line, too far south, required a long series of gybes, there were difficult narrow passages between the islands, a stretch of "coastal sailing," and again a series of gybes along the boundary.

All this with the GB90 polar graph which was extremely difficult to interpret and constant attention to limiting performance loss.

When the "Boundary-Coastal Part" was finally over, the real open water race began, and figuring out how to "play" with the gaps in the polar graph was very interesting.

Another challenging aspect was correctly interpreting the WX and its evolution over 48/72 hours and, above all, verifying that the route proposed by the Router was the correct one (which often wasn't the case).

To "force" the router's choices, I had to place more WPs than usual, and two in particular were crucial: the "delayed" one after the last gybe and the last one, under the blue bubble southwest of the finish line, for the last tack.

The 22:30 UTC WX on February 14th didn't convince me, so I decided to stick with my plan, and it was the best decision I made throughout the entire race.

A very close race with many fellow SOLers like StingF1, rumskib, sassy63, aner59, Intrepid, ita10267, BRENTGRAY, RICOTINA, and many, many others.

Thank you SOL and Thank you SOLers, a fantastic and exciting race right to the end!

Carlo Alberto
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