

THE CHINOOK SALMON – 2026

Not much to report...I got lucky with the angles over time. North course appeared too sharp verses South's lateral. Even with less pressure the more westerly line seemed to have less distance, yet when you look at everyone's total distances, they are relatively the same. So back to luck.

Eventually every squirrel finds an acorn. The last time I placed third was thanks to bonknhoot and crew stopping for a BBQ (only miles from the finish...foolish crew).

My routing system is a "boat list" with those I am reasonably certain use routing software, as well as those that have sailed for some time, which gives an indication of direction. For this length of race, I find it is wise to see where the Rhumb line is point to point, which showed "go north". But running the wx for the 168 hours for several days ahead and watched the prevailing wind angles, where the highs tended to be, I thought the fleet would stay south.

A failed (too early?) starting dc for the "I am away" start found me chasing SW through the Salish Sea. Awakening the next morning to find most of the "routers" had all taken a sharp N and were moving along the north shore, in a westerly direction, hours ahead, albeit a couple of miles; only Ibis was nearby. That pretty much confirmed my S route thoughts as catching up was not in my future.

As we left the Salish Sea, I notice BRENTGRAY is S, as is wsguerin and with Scott's comment to Freya about catching up, I find I am pleased. I know how much "Cutie" is part of Scott's love/hate routing relationship; Freyja and BRENTGREY are also part of my routing system. Some affirmation for the choice, not the majority on my list, but.... Once along that southerly course, you could see the returning angles for the fleet that went N, then N again would crash down on our course as CriticalHippo and Panpyc showed later. At some point "cross'em if you can" was achieved; the low coming in from the west, the high blocking the majority of the northern fleet; there was no catching Scott or Freyja to the finish.

bmd / August 2026