

## Comments from Bill Erkelens:

Tactics- Start with an overall plan based on experience and advise. I have used Commanders Weather for many races in the past with great success. An example from Commanders for a Hawaii race is below which shows the scope of service available.

The Summary helps give you the overall picture of what conditions are driving the race course weather. This is followed by detailed forecast conditions for your position along a suggested route.

Finally a few graphics attached to assist in the explanation.

In order to get a service with this detail, you will need to provide the performance information for your boat. If you do not have access to this information perhaps you can find the data for a boat of similar performance to aid in the routing.

Remember, you may only receive this form of “outside assistance” before the start of the race, and not at any time during the race unless you are registered in the Cruising Division.

## Sample weather routing report:

From: Commanders’ Weather Corp  
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Event: 2015 Transpac  
Start: 1300PDT Saturday, July 18, 2015  
Prepared:  
0630PDT Saturday, July 18, 2015

Summary...

Routing wants a northern route, as far N as 35n – Personally think it is too far N, but both Euro and GFS support this -

For this forecast, have not gone that far N. Will have to deal with light air Tues and part of Wed, but still think we can get enough breeze and not add in that much mileage –

- 1) Enrique now a regular low and located close to 20n/137 30w
  - a) the system is not moving very much and will drift around the next couple of days

- 2) The remains of it may hold as at least a weak low/trough and move NW during next week
  - a) so, some chance either the remains of Enrique or some piece of it may still be around 140-145w and S of 25n
- 3) Dolores has continued to weaken
  - a) it is now around 21.9n/117.4w
  - b) top winds are 40 kts
- 4) With the system about to move into cooler waters, further weakening will occur
  - a) Dolores is moving WNW at 9 kts and likely will turn more NW then NNW to N
  - b) this is further N and E and both Euro and GFS show this
- 5) We will maintain the same goal of coming SW and try to get into some of the stronger wind that will still be associated with it
- 6) Increasing tropical moisture will mean lots of clouds
  - a) with the clouds, sea breeze will be weak
  - b) winds of 6-11 kts early this afternoon then flow becomes very light later today and tonight – breeze could be a bit more if we get some
  - c) the breeze will back
- 7) We do the best we can to get SW
- 8) On Sun, the remains of Dolores (the system will be transitioning to a regular low) will be close to 26 30n/119 45w
  - a) it will be moving NNW
- 9) Flow will be E to ENE Sun morning
  - a) the wind increases during the day
- 10) You will pass W of the stronger flow Sun night
  - a) wind diminishes and backs
- 11) We will move W with the backing flow
- 12) Have seen some of the routes with the much more northern tracks - wanting you to go with stronger NE flow from the high
  - a) think that is too risky to attempt with the track records of the models as of late and to add that much distance is not worth it in my opinion
  - b) can see you staying a little N of my course, but not up to 35n
- 13) Will have to go thru a light zone of wind Mon-Tues
  - a) High pressure far to the N will have the wind filling in better as we get to later Wed and Thursday
- 14) Euro shows more breeze than the GFS and opted to lean more to that
- 15) Slow clocking wind the latter part of the week
- 16) kept you generally W thru most of Thurs
  - a) wind becomes more ENE as we get to Thurs night/Fri
  - b) figure we come more SW sometime around/W of 145w – Fri?
- 17) Pattern suggests E flow near Hawaii as wave moves W towards Hawaii
  - a) timing of that wave very much in doubt this far out

Wind forecasts

Wind directions are MAGNETIC, wind speed in kts, and time is PDT

Sat, July 18

11: var 3-6

14: 180-200/ 6-10 start

17: var 4-7

20: 330-020/ 3-6

23: 060-080/ 3-6

Weather...Cloudy to partly cloudy. Chance of a shower overnight

Seas building to 2-4 ft from SW, then 4-6 ft night

Sun, July 19 – Heading SW and trying to get into stronger breeze from weakening Dolores

02: 070-090/ 4-8

05: 070-090/ 6-10 near 32 35n/119 40w

11: 070-090/11-16

17: 060-080/13-18, wind backing – heading WNW as wind backs

23: 010-030/11-16, heading WNW as wind backs

Weather...Cloudy with a chance of a couple showers or a t-shower – highest chances afternoon and evening.

Seas increasing to 7-9 ft, with a developing and building SSE-SE swell and ENE wind waves

Mon, July 20 – heading mostly W

05: 010-030/10-15 near 31 55n/125 30w

11: 360-020/ 8-13

17: 350-010/ 8-13

23: 350-010/ 7-12

Weather...Mostly cloudy with showers, mainly 1st ½ of the day

Seas 7-9 ft - SE swell, NE wind waves

Tue, July 21 – continuing mainly W to get thru light air

05: 010-030/ 6-11 near 32n/131 20w

11: 020-040/ 5-10

17: 020-040/ 5-10

23: 020-040/ 5-10

Weather...Cloudy to partly cloudy

Seas 6-8 ft, mainly ENE swell

Wed, July 22 – stronger wind will be to the N and NW

05: 010-030/ 5-10 nr 32n/137w

11: 020-040/ 6-11

17: 020-040/ 9-14

23: 020-040/10-15

Weather...Variable clouds

Seas 5-7 ft – ENE to NE

Thurs, July 23

05: 030-050/13-18 near 31 55n/143w

11: 030-050/13-18

17: 040-060/14-19

23: 050-070/14-19, heading SW

Weather... Variable clouds with scattered showers and a heavier squall  
Seas 4-6 ft

Fri, July 24

05: 060-080/13-18 near 29 30/147 45w

11: 060-080/14-19

17: 060-080/15-20

23: 060-080/15-20

Weather... Variable clouds, few showers or a squall

Seas 5-7 ft

Sat, July 25

05: 070-090/15-20 near 26n/152w

17: 070-090/15-20

Weather... Variable clouds with a few showers/squalls

Seas 6-8 ft – ENE swell

Kind regards, George Caras

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