

A REVIEW OF THE VICTORIA - MAUI RACE COURSE  
AND HOW ITS DISTANCE IS DETERMINED OVERALL

BACKGROUND

Over the history of the race, the official distance for handicapping purposes has been described as 2308 nautical miles.

In 1992 we reviewed this issue as part of a small computer project which produced overall course plots of each yacht in the race. In order to make the chart show the first leg out of Victoria to the end of Juan de Fuca Strait, it was necessary to identify this leg separate from the overall great circle course or actual course sailed on the open ocean.

In addition we observed that one yacht accumulated daily overall mileages (including the 54.5 nautical miles in the strait) totalling 2309.8 nautical miles. Only 1.8 miles greater than the great circle distance used for handicapping! AMAZING!

REVIEW

First of all, the great circle distance from Victoria to Maui is approximately 2295 nautical miles, but this cannot be sailed because of the Olympic Peninsula.

From the start line at Brotchie Ledge, near Victoria, the first leg of the course is measured to a turning point at the end of Juan De Fuca Strait. This point is on a range line extended 7 cables NNW from Duntzi Rock through the Red Flashing Buoy to the 200 meter depth contour line. (Reference chart 3606) This would be from coordinates Lat. 48,23.75,N. Long. 123,22.7,W. to coordinates Lat. 48,25.4,N. Long. 124,45.2,W., a direct distance of 54.5 nautical miles. Most yachts will sail via Race Passage which would affect this distance slightly. A two leg course then via Race Passage, changes the Juan De Fuca section. Start line to Race is 8.1 nautical miles, while Race to Duntzi turning point is 48.9 nautical miles, for a Total of 57.0 nautical miles.

The great circle course from Duntzi Rock turning point to the Maui Finish line would result in a perilous brush with Maui itself near Hawea Point. The long ocean leg is then taken from Duntzi to a point approximately abeam Hawea Point in the Pailolo channel. This point has been established as over a 134 fathom mark on chart 19347, 15th Edition, June 23/90. The coordinates are Lat. 21,2.2 N., Long. 156,42.15,W. This distance is 2245.8 nautical miles. From this point the course turns almost true south to the finish line.

The finish line needs a more precise definition. The land mark is the Kaanapali Shores Hotel, used as the observation point for the finish line. It is described as being immediately south of Honokowai Stream on the beach. The coordinates are - Lat. 20,57.05 N., Long. 156,41.4 W.

The finish line is a range extending on a bearing of 270 Magnetic from the hotel room. A marker buoy is located on this line at the 10 fathom line on the chart (referred to above), or about 3 cables out. The finish line is a one mile extension of this range from the buoy seaward. The finish line is then given a position midway along this extension as Lat. 20,57.2 N., Long. 156,42.2, W.

The last leg from the turning point in Pailolo channel is then a distance of 5.03 nautical miles.

In summary the total reference course length is:

Start Line to Race Passage -	8.1	Nautical	Miles.
Race Passage to Duntzi	48.9	"	"
Duntzi to Pailolo Channel	2245.8	"	"
Pailolo Channel to Finish	5.03	"	"
Total Distance	<u>2307.83</u>	"	"

It looks as though the founding fathers did a good accurate job of coming up with a handicapping distance for the race course. This is an effort to try and describe how it can be derived.