



Pacific Weather for The Longest Swim

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Introduction: This is an abbreviated report for Pacific weather conditions and notes for The Longest Swim.

Weather Routing's Recommendation for Transit to Japan and then Back to California

Westbound Crossing

Delaying a departure to Tokyo and to complete the Swim in 2018 is recommended by Weather Routing.

To deliver the vessel to Japan, the best time to make this crossing from Southern California is in late October. This is a narrow window, but attempts to have the Discoverer be in the Western Pacific as the Typhoon Season is decreasing (but still possible) in activity. A likely route would be direct routing to Hawaii to stop to refuel/bunker, and then take a route west to 150W, then make the turn northwest to Tokyo. This route also gives the option of stopping in Guam if needed, and keeps the vessel north of most tropical activity in the Western Pacific, as you will be in this region in late November and December.

Broad reaching trade winds are likely for most the transit, with most the swells being mixed NW-N-NE'ly. However, the tropics will need to be closely monitored, with flexibility required, as well as monitoring gale activity near Japan.

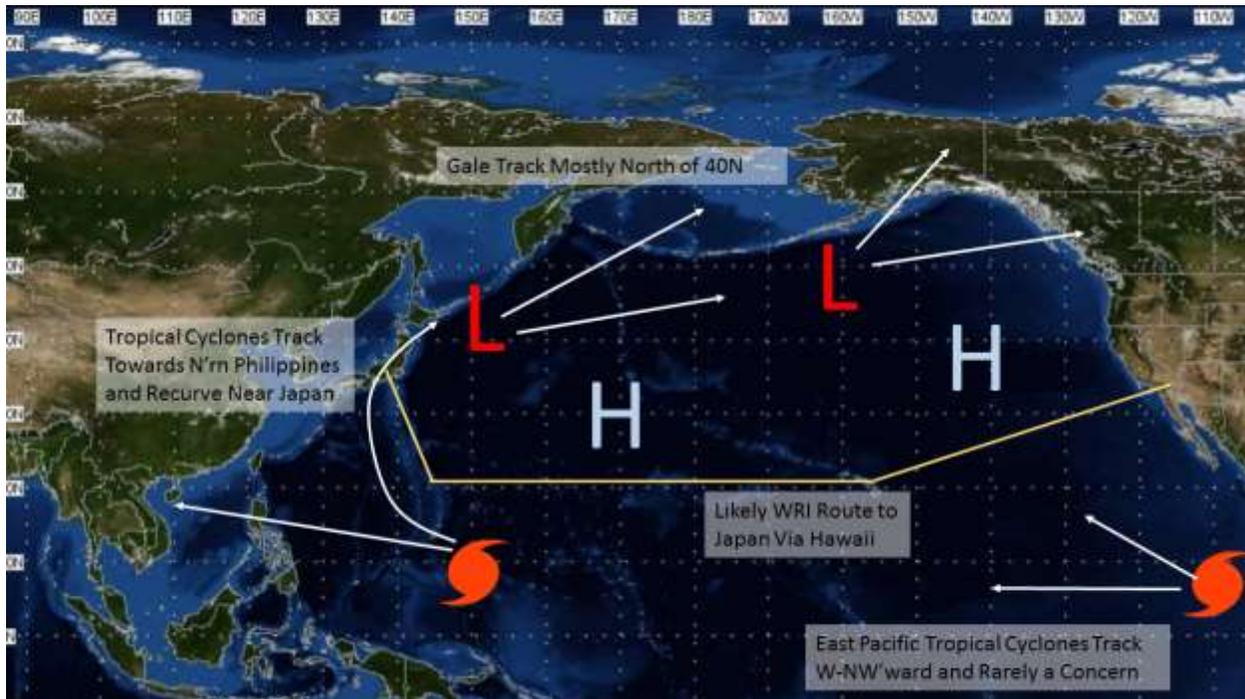
If you were to depart sooner, there would be the risk of more tropical activity near Hawaii and the Western Pacific. A later departure would result in heavier weather due to gale activity in the NW Pacific.

Eastbound Crossing

As we look towards beginning The Longest Swim from Japan, a early-mid May start would be best. The goal is to have you depart before tropical activity ramps up in the Western Pacific, but after the worst of the North Pacific gale/storm intensity is over. Having flexibility to depart with a few days' notice is recommended to take advantage of weather windows that may present themselves, and to be ready by early May in case you can depart a few weeks sooner. Note that tropical activity still occurs once or twice during the month of May in the West Pacific. A likely route will take Ben and the Discoverer on an ENE heading to take advantage of the Kuroshio current, then direct – California as the Kuroshio weakens in the central Pacific.

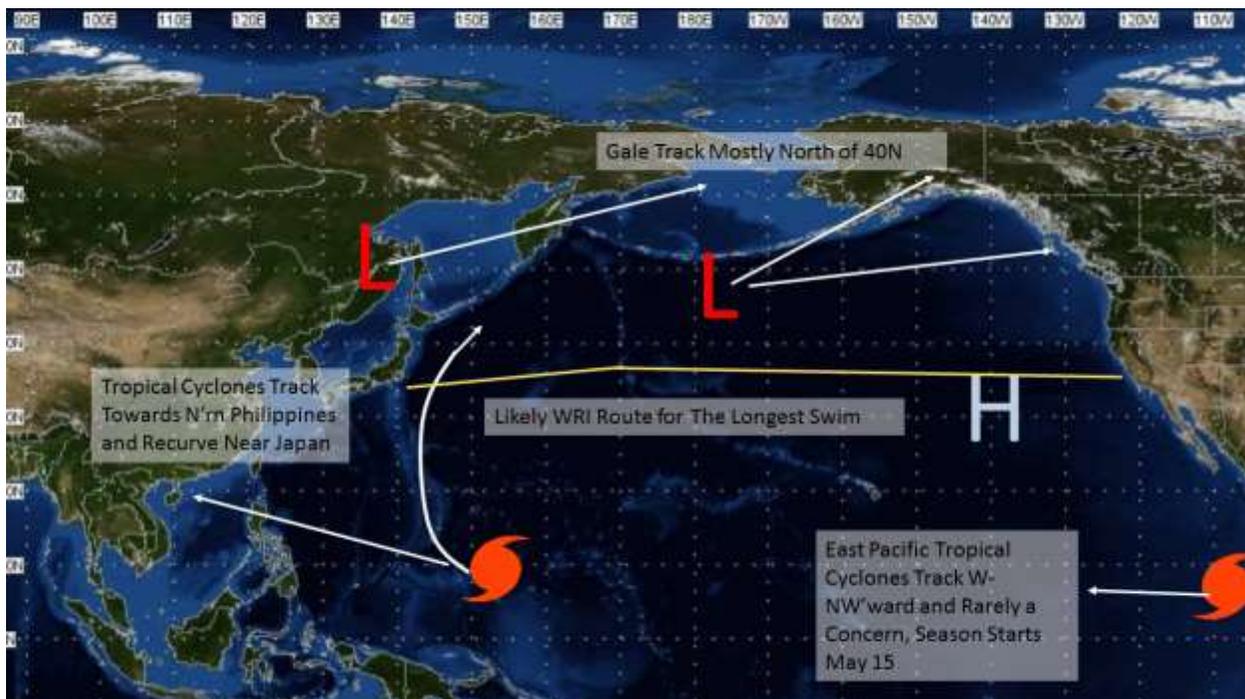
Map of October Weather

The following chart shows the usual October weather pattern for the Pacific to start a westbound crossing, with WRI's recommended route in yellow.



Map of May Weather

The following chart shows the usual May weather pattern for the Pacific to start a westbound crossing, with WRI's recommended route in yellow.



Conclusions

While no option is necessarily trouble free, departing in late October from Southern California to Japan via Hawaii is best, to minimize the threat for tropical cyclone activity in the West Pacific, and to arrive before gale activity increases by winter.

For the eastbound crossing, departing in early-mid May allows you to depart prior to the most active period of tropical activity, while minimizing the threat for gales and storms with an earlier departure.

Trust this assists, please let us know if you have any questions.