

# DECISION

Request No.: 01

Protest by RC

Event: 2022 Groupama Race Race Number:  
Hearing Schedule: 2022-06-23 19:00

## PARTIES AND WITNESSES

**Request No.:** 01: Race Committee

IRC - GBR28887 - Antipodes - Allan Tillyer

**Witnesses:** Denis Thompson - Representing the RC; Richard Hudson - Representing Antipodes; Bryan Collis - Witness for Antipodes

## VALIDITY

**Objection to Jury:** No

**Within Time Limit:** Within Time Limit

**Incident Identified:** Yes

**Proper Hail:** Hail not required

**Red Flag Displayed:** Not required

**Decision:** Request Valid

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Observer - Geoff Hill - Antipodes

## FACTS FOUND

1. Antipodes was sailing on the SE coast of NCL in 18+ knots with passing sharp storms.
2. NCL MRCC advised RC that a PLB had been activated on Antipodes.
3. NCL MRCC and the RC made many unsuccessful attempts by VHF, satphone, and social media to contact Antipodes and boats nearby to investigate the activation.
4. Antipodes was receiving weak VHF transmissions that had heavy static and could not be understood.
5. After some hours NCL MRCC activated the SAR helo and directed Gendarmerie Maritime vessel Dunber to go Antipodes location.
6. When the SAR helo and Gendarmerie Maritime vessel Dunber arrived at Antipodes location they were able to establish VHF transmission and receive communications with Antipodes.
7. Antipodes submitted a detailed written description of the boat's watch keeping and navigation procedures.
8. Antipodes had a dedicated navigator continually monitoring their VHF radio scanning VHF channel 16 and 77.
9. MRCC provided written advice that the location where Antipodes was at the time of the incident and after was in an area of "...*cone of non-propagation of VHF waves...*".

**Diagram:** Diagram not endorsed

## CONCLUSIONS AND RULES THAT APPLY

**Rules:** SI 15.5

1. Antipodes maintained a listening watch on VHF channel on VHF 16 and 77 and did not breach SI15.5.
2. Antipodes not receiving VHF transmissions was caused or contributed to by the "...*cone of non-propagation of VHF waves...*" in the area they were sailing in.

## DECISION

**Date & Time:** 2022-06-23 20:29 +11

1. No rule broken.

## PROTEST COMMITTEE

**Chaired By:** Mark Gallagher (AUS)

**Committee Members:** Mario Chollet (New Caledonia), Verdier Ghislaine (New Caledonia)