

Paris plans repeat finish

Bermuda's Alan Paris may be bringing up the rear in the Around Alone sailing race but his humour and determination remain intact.

The Islander is on Leg Three of the round the world event, sailing between South Africa and New Zealand.

The route to New Zealand lies through the Southern Ocean, the only area on the world's surface where the waves can roll all around the globe without land getting in the way. This results in the longest swell and largest waves found anywhere on the planet.

At last check Paris and Class II *BTC Velocity* were last in the fleet of 11 yachts, some distance off the coast of Australia.

"It really is awesome sailing out here," the sailor wrote in his latest report back to shore. "The sky may be grey, the seas may never deliver a consistent direction causing a never ending bumpy ride, but how to compare the feeling of being in the southern ocean.

"It is majestic and powerful, yet demands respect and wariness. It's easy to get into a rhythm down here that although generally positive, you have to shake yourself every now and again and soak up what it's like to be in this area where so few sailors venture. Otherwise it will pass all too soon and all you will have left is memories."

At the end of the last leg in Cape Town, Paris secured a moral victory by overtaking rival Bayer Ascensia almost on the finish line and he is planning a similar finale this time around. "I'm looking for a repeat performance . . . so watch out Kojiro, I have you in my sights!" he said in reference to second last yacht *Spirit of yukoh*.