2016 SWC Hyères

Questions to the International Jury

RRS 12, 15, 16 & 22.3

**Question 1.**
2 Boats are sailing on starboard tack along the start line. The boat clear ahead luffs up to head to wind but remains on starboard. The boat clear astern does the same. Neither boat backs their sail at any stage. Without any alteration of the heading of the boat the boat clear ahead goes from moving ahead to moving astern. Is this a change of course, and thus subject to RRS16?

**Answer 1.**
Yes. The question refers to a situation that is similar to MR Call B7. This call does not involve rules that are changed by Appendix C, so that principle can be applied on the question. The Call says “…she did change course by reversing the direction in which she was travelling (astern to ahead)…..”

**Question 2.**
Would the answer be the same if both boats back their sails simultaneously to move astern?

**Answer 2.**
Yes.

**Question 3.**
If the boat clear ahead backs a sail to move astern first, and then the boat clear astern responds by backing her sail to move astern, does RRS15 also apply to the boat clear ahead.

**Answer 3.**
No. When the boat clear ahead is moving astern by backing her sail, she becomes the keep clear boat by rule 22.3. The boat clear astern acquires right of way because of the other boat’s actions, so RRS 15 does not apply. When the clear astern boat is moving backwards by backing her sails, the clear ahead boat acquires right of way because of the other boats actions, so RRS 15 does not apply and RRS 12 applies.