

Letter from Carioca Sailor to Mr. Glenn McCarthy

I have been following all silent attacks made against the Guanabara Bay. I internally believed that this could be adding some pressure to the authorities to their cleaning program. But this last article made by the blogger, Mr. Glenn McCarthy, was over all the limits. The ignorance about the current situation and all the misinformation floating on cyber sea showed me that it is necessary a reply.

In 2016, the Olympic Regatta will be sailed in the best frame of the world. This place is Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro, where I have been sailing since I was 7 years old mostly Optimist, Snipe, Laser and Star the popular classes here. My Yacht Club, late Clube do Rio de Janeiro, runs more than one hundred races every year without any issue. It is rare to have a day with no wind or any kind of problems. Events like Snipe Worlds 2013, Military Games 2011, Star Worlds 2010, Pan Am Games 2007 and Finn Gold Cup 2004 were just perfect.

This is a unique opportunity to showcase our sport and lifestyle to the world. Since Barcelona (it was not very clean too), sailing was not part of the Olympic Venue and sailed in cities far away. This means that in the last editions, there was no public, no reporter, nothing there until the finals days. The initial plan was to build a huge stadium for sailing. But the decision of removing the Star class removed much of the interest of our event, including the expected confront between Ben Ainsle x Robert Scheidt, but not excluding most of the big international names...

The Guanabara issue involves a lot of interests, financial and politics: International contractors are interested in construction any emergency solution, political groups wants to prove that this or that politician is not competent. There are also political groups who want to increase their influence at ISAF. In the middle of all this are the sailors who have their own preferences: light wind experts supports races in front of Copacabana Beach while heavy wind experts dream of Búzios. I am also a trained Race Official, but I confess that I didn't understand why we should rewrite the rules and manuals to sail in Rio....

Forever, I have heard how the press can twist the facts. But, I always have thought it applied to war or other important political events. Now I see it happening just in front of me! The recent international pressure to remove the event from our bay is quite ridiculous. The press gave a lot of attention for the huge tragedy of a 49er hitting a plastic fishing box!!! It was featured on the most seen Sunday night TV program! What does we have say about the footage and pictures from the end of the bay and some really polluted rivers? They even created a factoid about a “super bacteria”. Sometimes they find dead fish too.

This picture shows me and my 11 years old daughter having fun sailing in the Bay:



Her bay is much nicer than the bay I sailed at the same age. At that time, oil spills were the major concern. I am the third from the left- to right protesting against pollution when I was 12 years old.

em Botafogo.
José Nunes Gar-
ça, de leucemia; flumina-
ense, filho de Oswaldo Gar-
ça e Maria Tijuca.
Maria Santoro,
de glioma cerebral;
médica, viúva de Si-
lvestre; deixa três fi-

Ribeiro Resse, 76
insuficiência respirató-
ria; viúva de Hum-
berto da Silveira; dei-

de 10 anos.
Guerra, 78 anos,
insuficiência respiratória;
funcionário públi-
co em Teresópolis.

Segredo Sobrinho,
insuficiência respi-
ratória; aposentado;
morava em Copaca-

baia de Jesus Lou-
renço; de insuficiência
respiratória; viúva
portuguesa; morava na
Ilha de Maracanã.

Monteiro Machado,
insuficiência respi-
ratória; aposentado;
filho de Colbert de Faria
morava em Copaca-



No clube, atletas mirins exibem a vela estragada pelo óleo. Muitas delas são importadas e custam caro

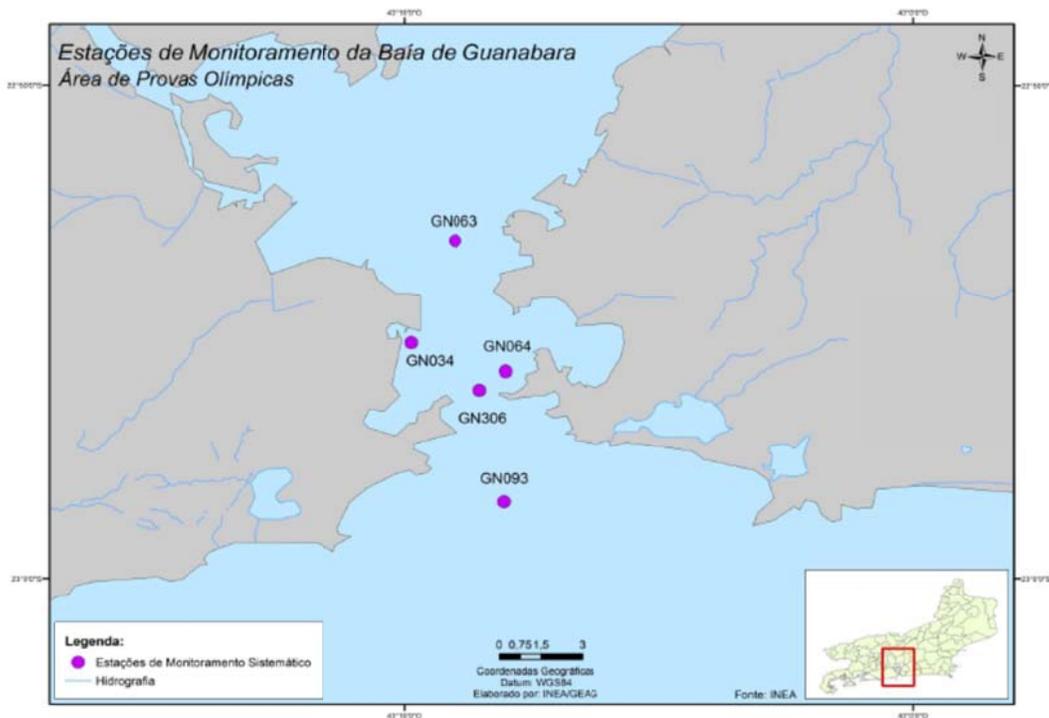
carro
mata
outra

Baía amanhece cheia de óleo e regata 'optimist' é suspensa

Then we have the floating garbage problem. Every sailor knows the effects of kelp or a plastic bag sucked on the centerboard. This problem was considerably reduced after the closure of Gramacho's Landfill. For the Olympic Regatta there is a contingency plan for using nets in the polluted rivers and using some boats to make sure there is no garbage on the race course. This plan is quite similar to what was done in Qingdao, China.

Finally, the sewage problem. The population around the north end of bay has increased much faster than the investments in sanitary treatment. The lack of sanitary condition around Rio is a real problem. I am very disappointed that people living around the end doesn't have good sanitary conditions. It would be great to have this entire problem solved as promised. But saying that it is dangerous to sail on the proposed Olympic course is a complete joke. Nobody gets sick sailing or swimming here! I say zero sailors sick in the last 100 years!

It is no secret that the numbers are well inside the accepted limits and getting better. The numbers from the Brazilian authorities are confinable. Mr. Glenn McCarthy can all also check the tests made by US Sailing who have the same finding. As a whole, ISAF is to promote sailing, not making water quality tests. The local water quality authority publishes every month a report made exclusively to ISAF and Rio 2016. The purple dots show the points of control.



RESULTADOS DE COLIFORMES FECALIS REFERENTES AO ANO DE 2015

Estação de amostragem	Coordenadas Geográficas		Janeiro 28/01	Fevereiro 24/02	Março 25/3	Abril 27/4										Mediana (2015)	
	Latitude	Longitude															
GN0034	22° 55' 13,56"	43° 09' 52,17"	62	3.300	1.600	230											915
GN0063	22° 53' 09,00"	43° 09' 00,00"	120	18	330	33											77
GN0064	22° 55' 48,00"	43° 08' 00,00"	590	18	1.300	20											305
GN0093	22° 58' 27,00"	43° 08' 02,00"	33	110	200	18											72
GN0306	22° 56' 09,00"	43° 08' 11,00"	62	20	1.500	45											54

Padrão CONAMA 357/2005

Classe 01

Contato Primário (Banho)

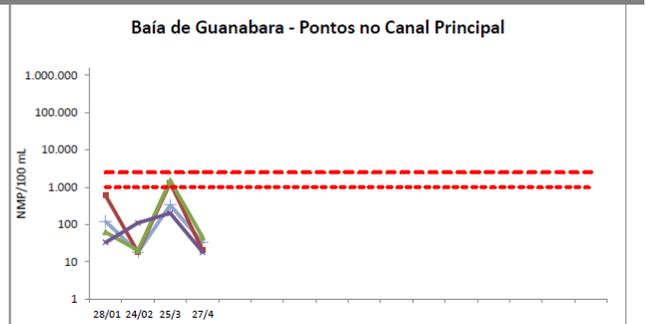
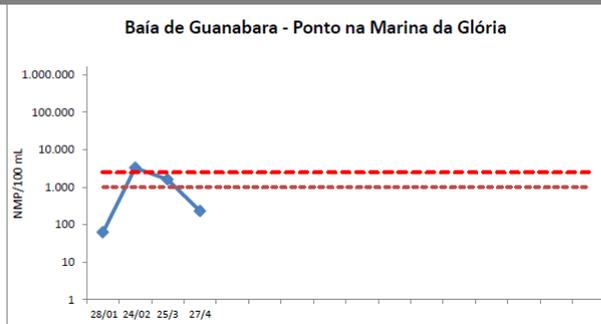
Salina / Salobra

Coliformes Fecais ≤ 1.000 NMP/100 ml

Classe 02

Contato Secundário (Provas de Vela)

Coliformes Fecais ≤ 2.500 NMP/100 ml



Everybody knows there are some pluvial galleries that bring some sewage illegally discharged by nearby building exiting around the south part of the bay. They are found mainly close to the Marina da Gloria. Sometimes this smells bad and it is not acceptable. However, every day I get stuck in traffic due the work the sanitary company is doing around the Marina and other parts of the South part of the bay. It is possible to verify some positive results of this work as this recent picture of Urca's beach shows. The numbers are also getting better.



I believe Mr. Glenn McCarthy should worry about places that are really dangerous to sail. There are the frozen waters up to the north of our globe, where most of the critics come from. It is there where the sailors are in real dangerous and is there where we, unfortunately, see problems and sailors dying. In Rio, I can sail all the year without any weather gear. The shirt is just recommended to avoid the Sun.

I also like to sail in Búzios. It is an incredible sailing venue and my favorite venue. But the excuse to change the Olympic regatta to there is unacceptable. The probability of someone get a little diarrhea is much higher in Búzios. The tap water in Búzios is not very good. It is not a big deal. But it is quite common for someone living in a high standard sanitary condition country (ex: north Europe) having a little diarrhea in the first days in Búzios unless they are brushing their teeth with mineral water. Rio the Janeiro.

But the most important thing, Buzios was not chosen the City for 2016 Games. Neither Chicago...