

3 Rio yachts disqualified

RIO DE JANEIRO. — Three Rothmans Cape-to-Rio yachts yesterday were notified of their disqualifications, while another four boats were given time penalties for rule infringements.

Beluga's Ian Dunt said the disqualification was "sheer disappointment", but he agreed the ruling by the race protest committee was "100 percent correct".

Dunt said they were down to between 250-350 ml water a person a day when they were offered water by the passing freighter, Mas Prospectus.

At that stage they were

past Ilha de Trindade and had sufficient water for one to 1½ days.

At no stage while they were taking water from the freighter had the yacht started its engine.

A disappointed Dunt said: "We thought we might incur a time penalty."

St Francis, skippered by Duncan Lethbridge, was disqualified for starting her engine while hauling in a marlin. The fish got away.

None of her crew was available for comment.

Di Data was disqualified for taking on water at Ilha de Trindade and not taking the compulsory 12-hour stopover.

— Sapa.