



Rules of the Road

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Introduction

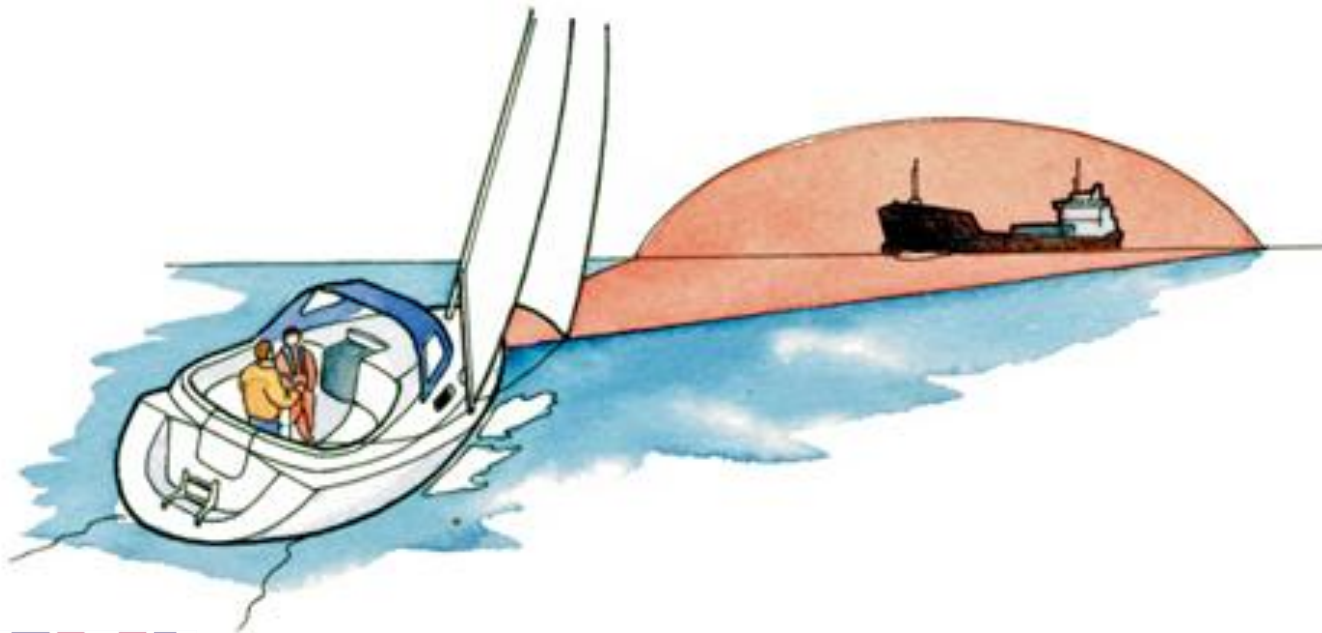
This presentation explains the basics to collision avoidance and the rules of the road



Look Out

A proper lookout by sight and sound should be kept at all times

Beware of blind spots caused by sails/spray-hoods/dodgers etc



Safe Speed

Proceed at a safe speed



Beware of faster vessels overtaking

Assessing Collision Risks

If another vessel is on a constant bearing a risk of collision exists



A hand bearing compass can be used to check the bearing

Alternatively, you can line up part of your boat, such as a stanchion, with the other vessel to check the relative bearing

Standing On & Giving Way

The starboard tack boat is the stand-on vessel, but has it been seen by the spinnaker yacht?



All vessels have a duty to avoid collision

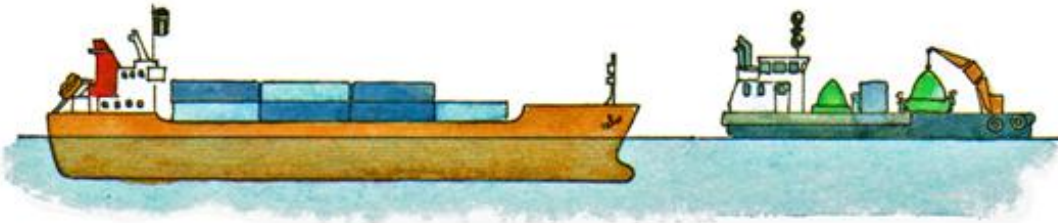
Don't leave avoiding action too late or a collision may become unavoidable

Hierarchy

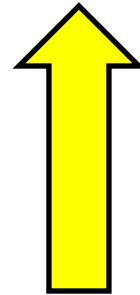
There is a pecking order built into the IRPCS



A more manoeuvrable vessel must not impede the passage of a less manoeuvrable one

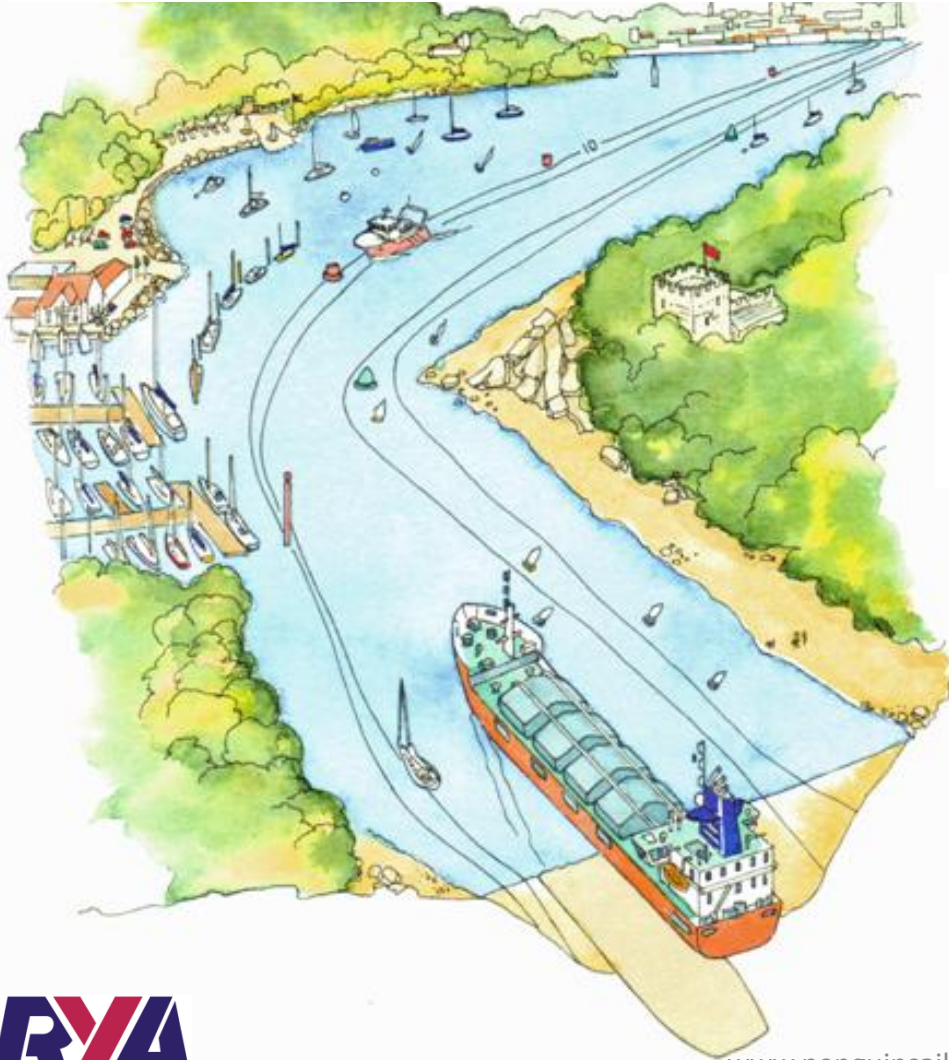


Small power vessels (including yachts under power) are at the bottom of the list



Narrow Channels

Small craft must keep clear of shipping in narrow channels

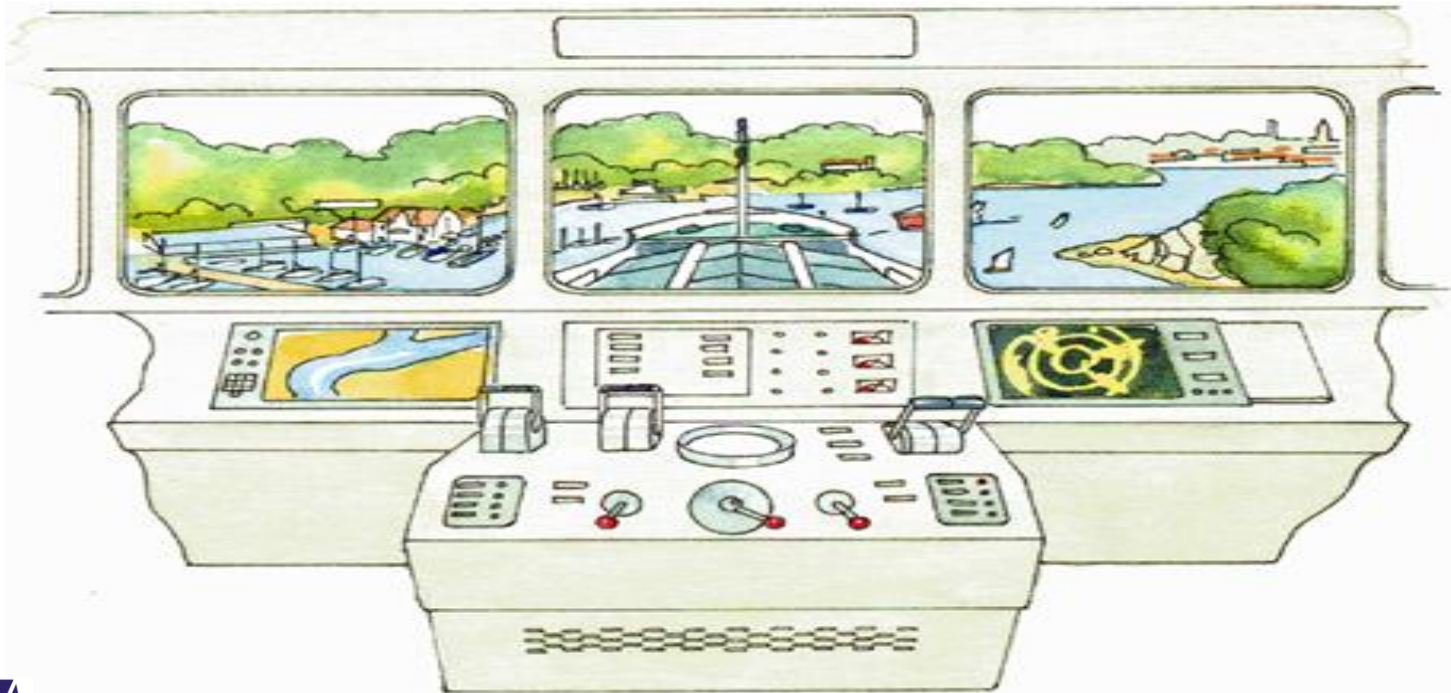


The ship has a large turning circle is slow to accelerate, decelerate and stop

Narrow Channels

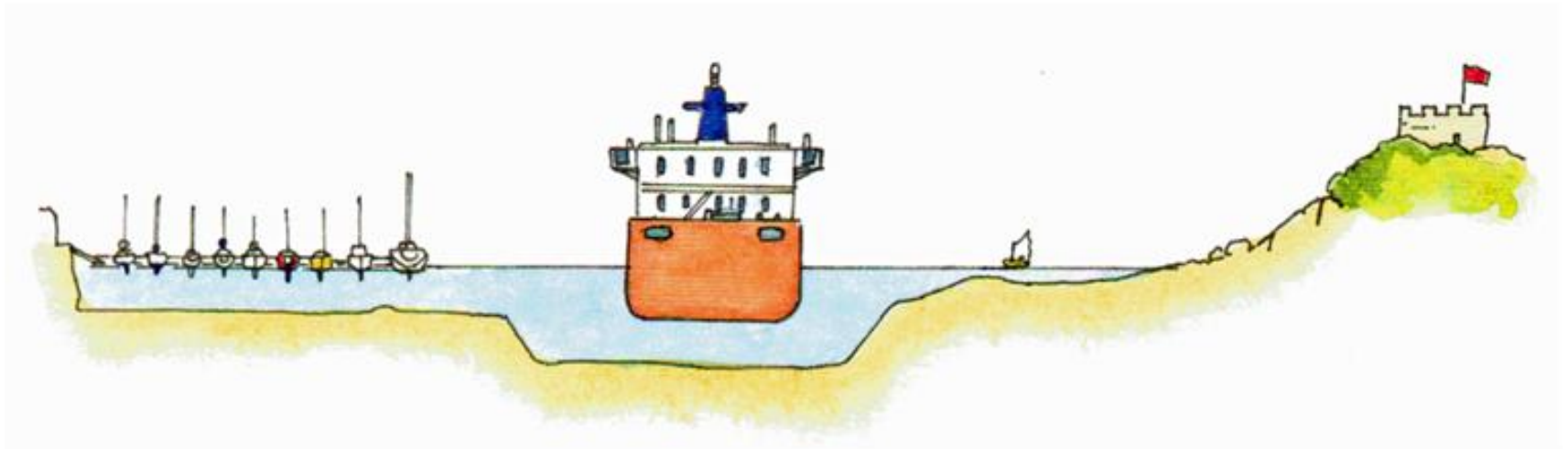
Visibility from the bridge is limited

- What seems like a wide expanse of water from the deck of a yacht
- Looks like a very narrow channel from the bridge of a ship



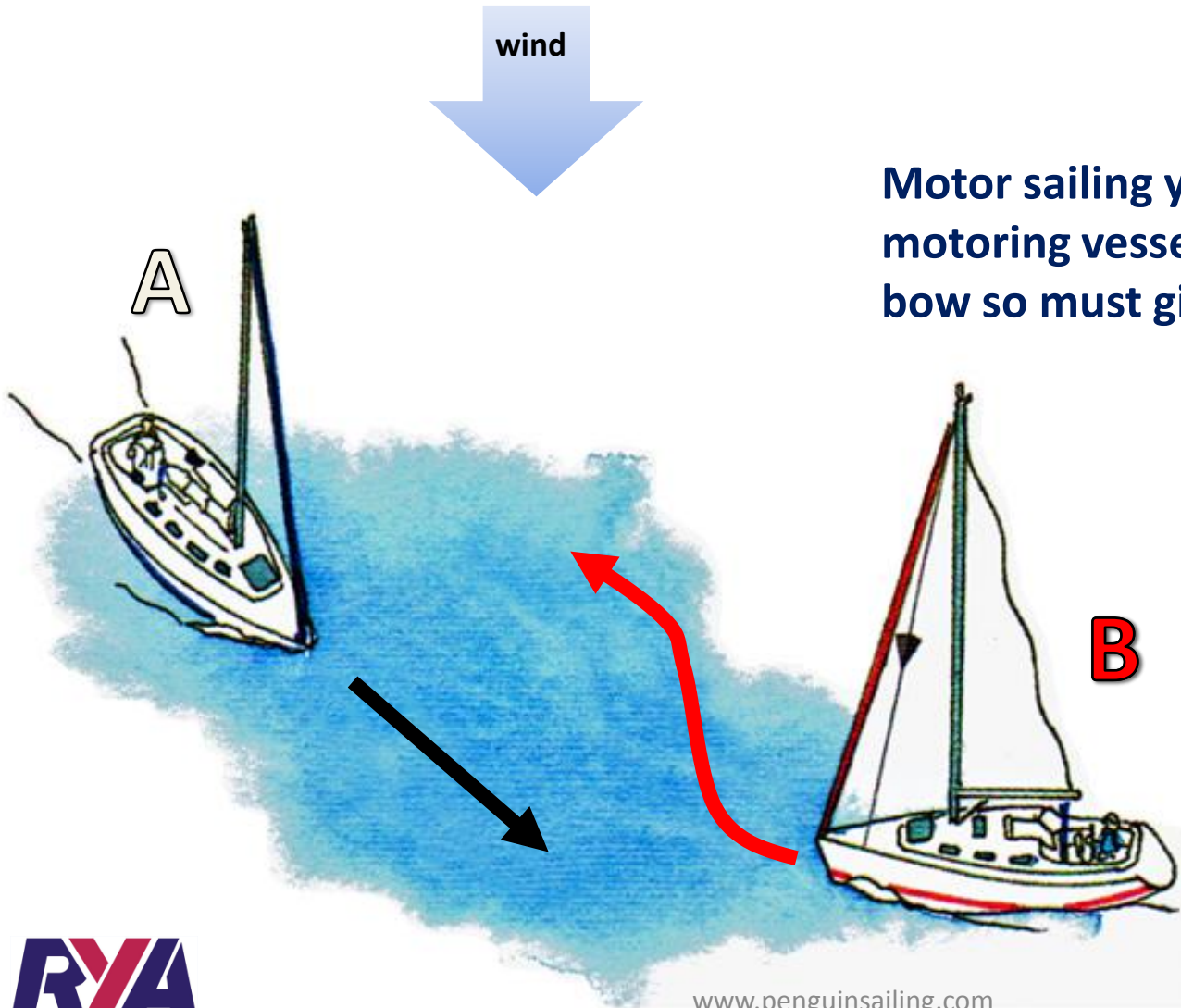
Narrow Channels

Prudent small craft skippers always keep well clear



Who Gives Way

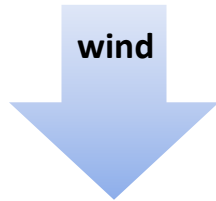
Two power driven vessels crossing



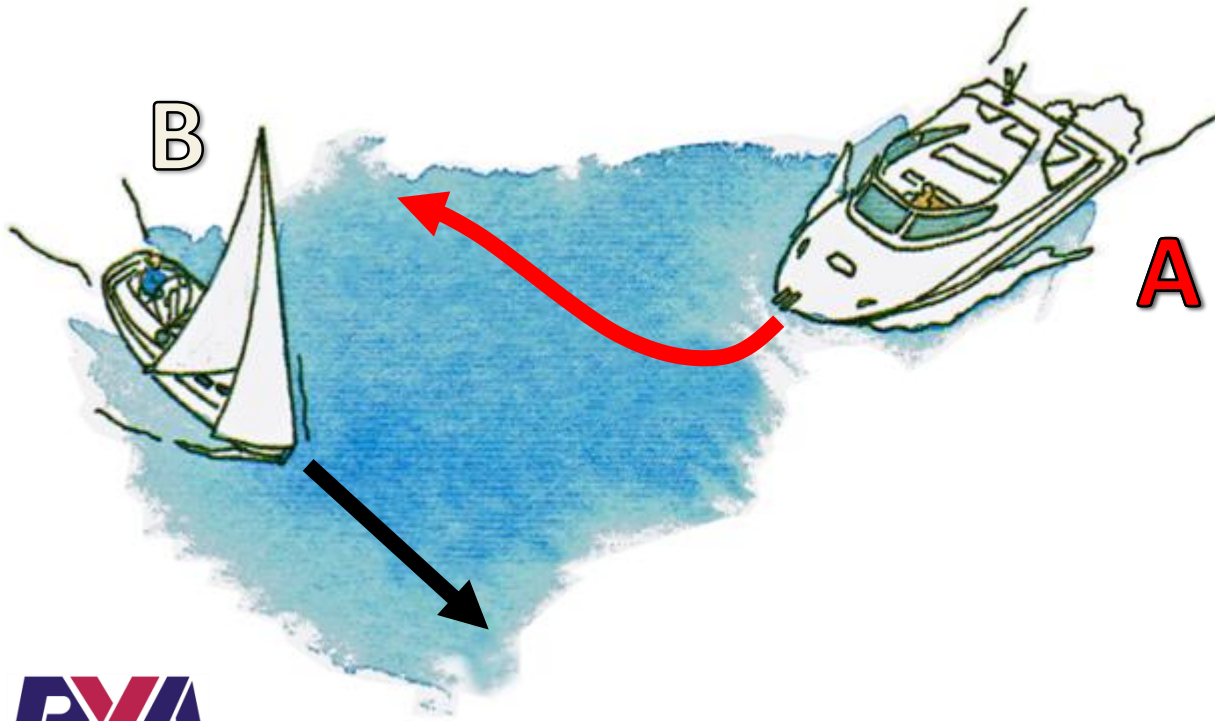
Motor sailing yacht **B** has the other motoring vessel on her starboard bow so must give way

Who Gives Way

Motorboat and sailing yachts



Power gives way to sail here,
motorboat **A** gives way to the
sailing yacht

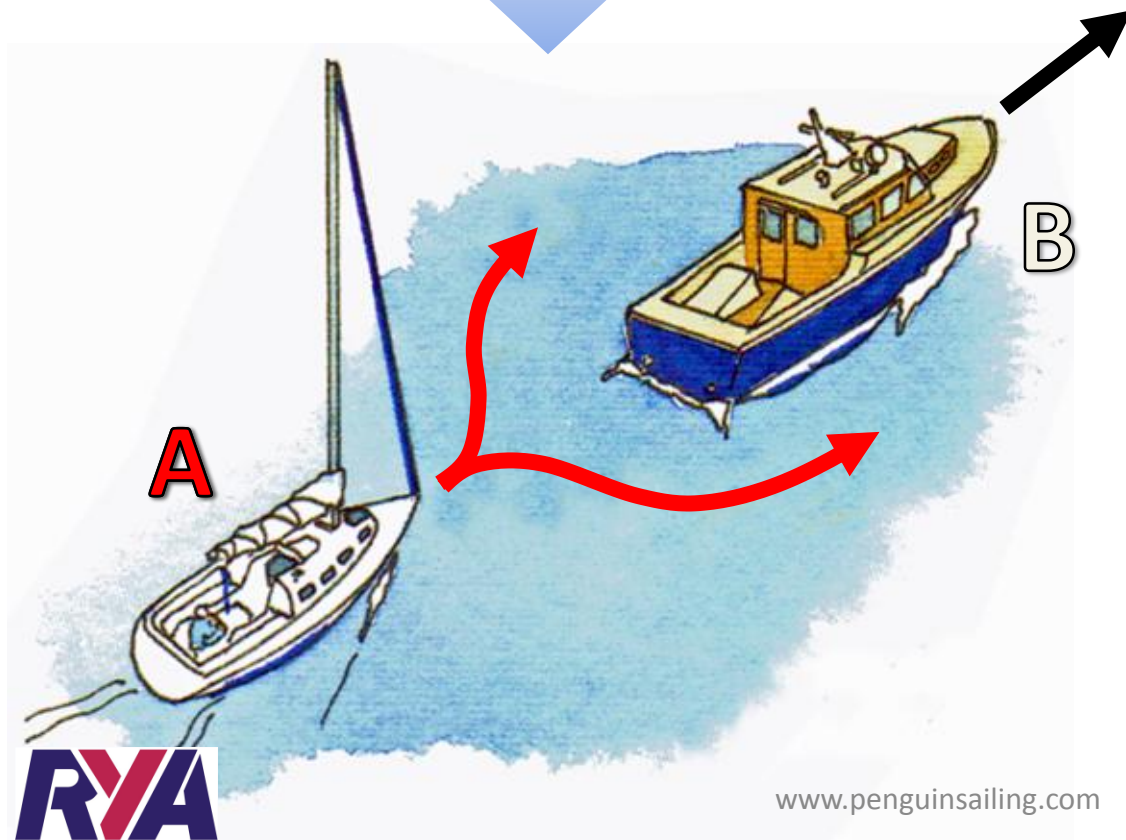
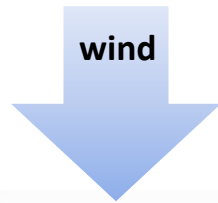


Who Gives Way

Overtaking

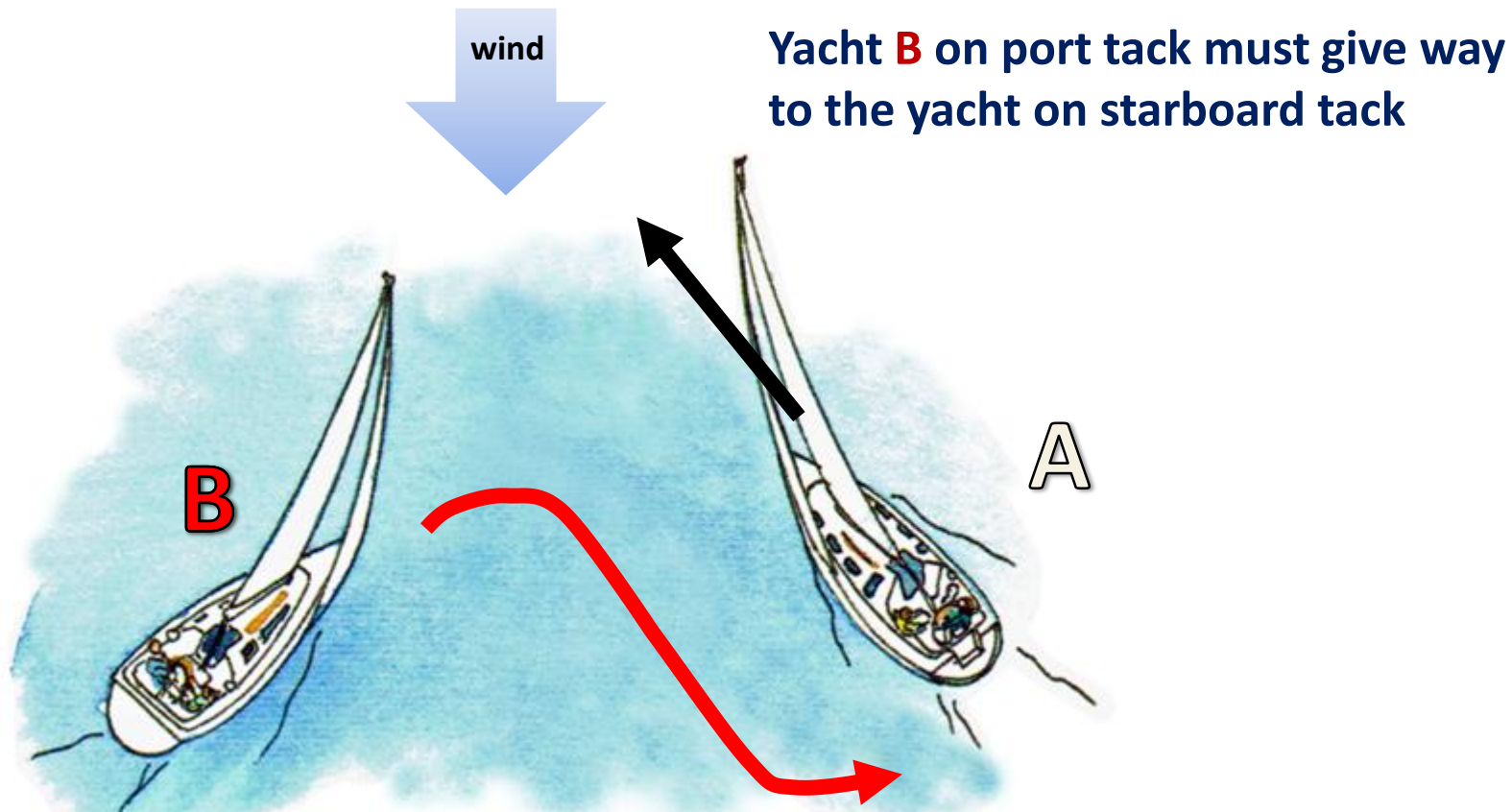
An overtaking boat must keep clear

Vessel **A** keeps clear, she can pass either side of the slower boat



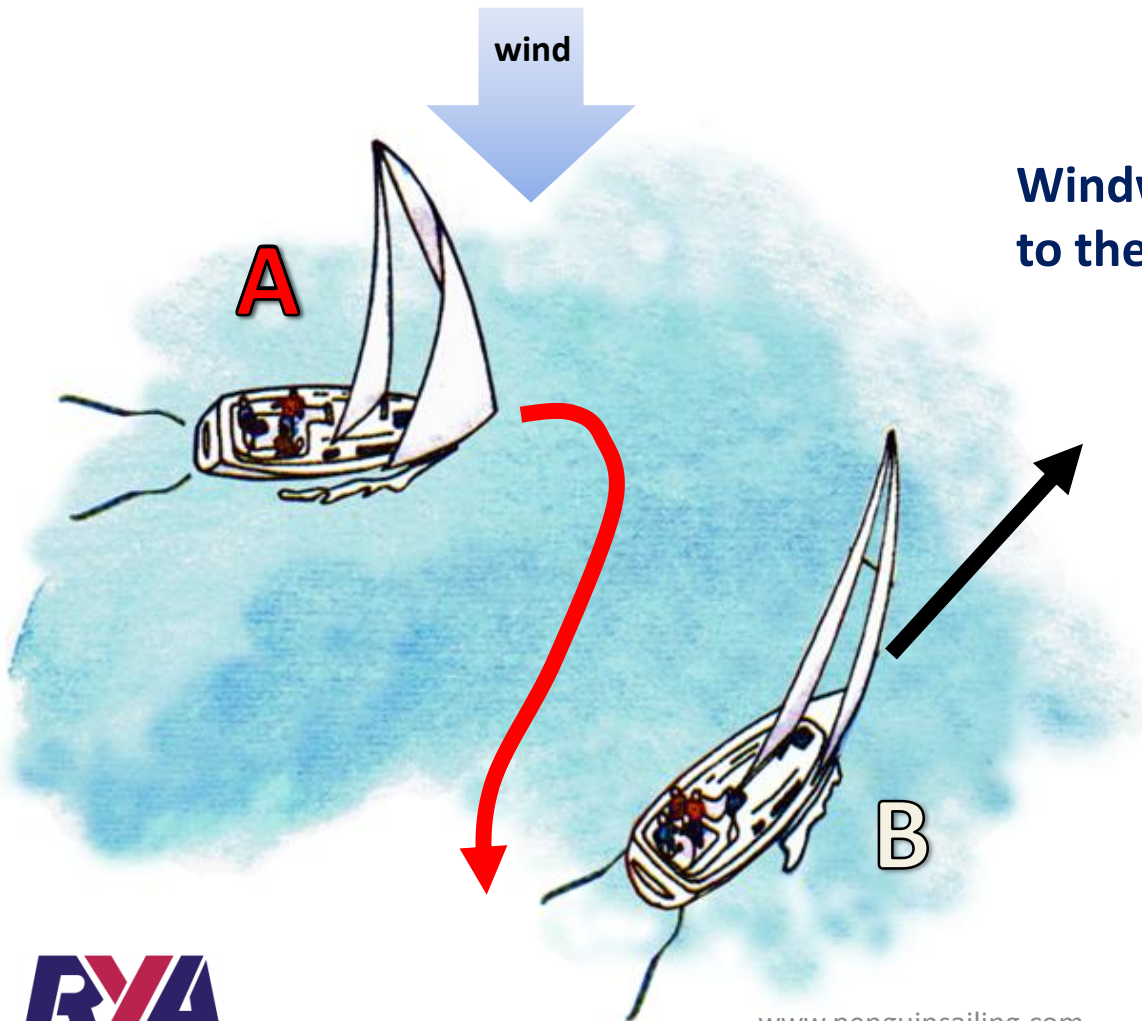
Who Gives Way

Two sailing vessels on opposite tacks



Who Gives Way

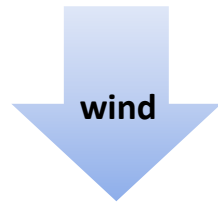
Yachts on the same tack



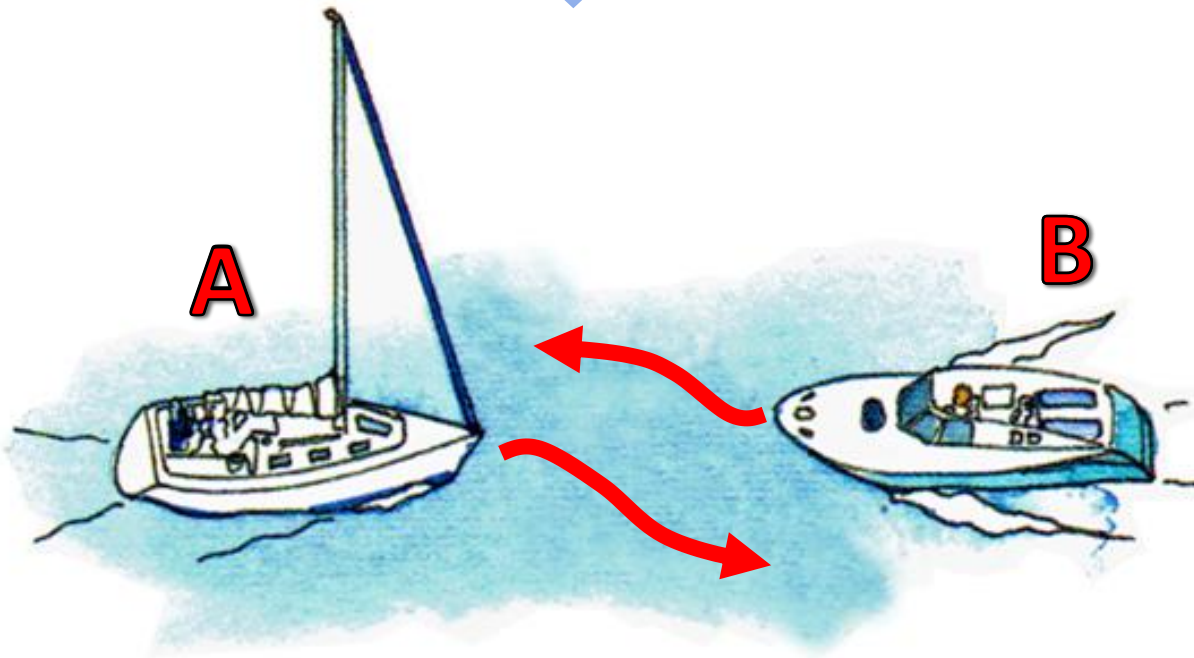
Windward yacht **A** gives way to the leeward yacht

Who Gives Way

Two vessels under power



Both **A** and **B** turn to starboard



Traffic Separation Schemes

TSS

TSSs are often found at pinch points, such as Land's End and the Dover Straits

They are like motorways for ships – designed to safely separate the flow of traffic in busy areas

Small vessels are not welcome in a TSS – in some such as Dover TSS hefty fines are payable for those breaking the rules!

You should avoid entering a TSS if at all possible

If you need to cross one, you must do so at 90 degrees to the TSS not your course over the ground

Fishing Vessels

Vessels both sail and power should give way to vessels engaged in fishing



Fishing vessels make unpredictable movements and may not be keeping a good look out

If a vessel is fishing it should hoist two cones with their points together

However many fishermen leave these shapes up all the time

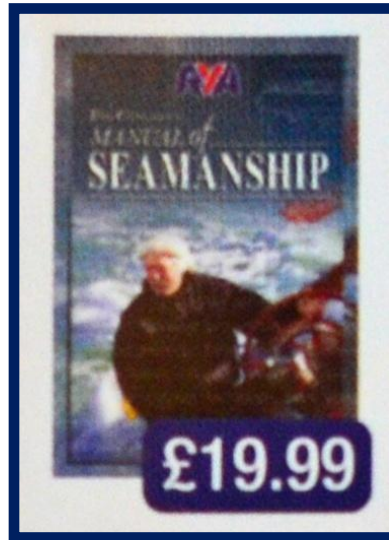
Prudent skippers always keep well clear

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Further Reading



We highly recommend Tom Cunliffe's
RYA Seamanship Handbook (G36)

You can buy a copy of this book by visiting our on-line shop

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