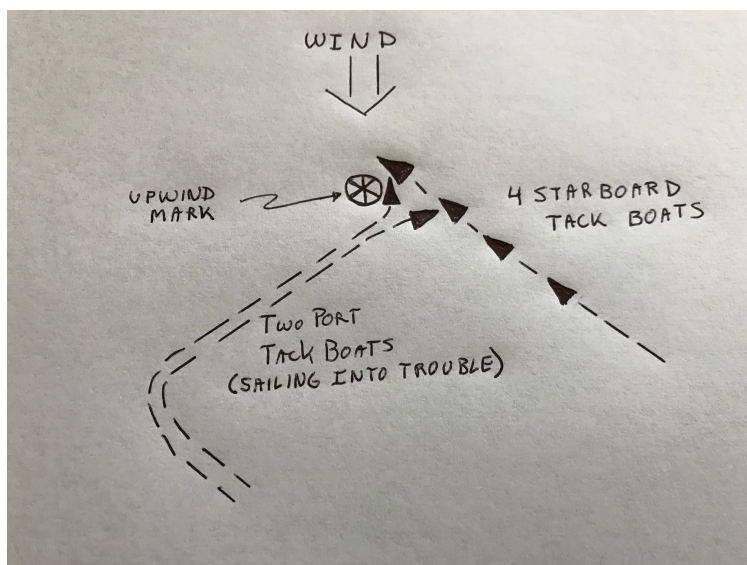


## Sailing into a Problem - Approaching the Upwind Mark on Port

Approaching an upwind mark on port leaves the skipper with few opportunities to safely get around the mark without fouling another boat. The other boats approaching the mark on Starboard have right of way, so the port tack boat must avoid them because he is on port. And the port tack boat must also avoid hitting the mark. One of Two bad things usually happen. 1) The port tack boat tries to go onto starboard at the last second to squeeze around the mark. 2) The port tack boat tries to shoot a hole between two starboard boats. Both moves are very high risk and usually result in a pile up of boats. Now the port tack boat has fouled several boats. Not too many of his buddies are pleased...



## Avoiding the Problem - Plan a course to approach the mark on starboard

The smart move is to tack over onto port well BEFORE the mark (4-6 boat lengths), then sail past the layline, and then go back onto starboard. This maneuver allows the skipper to blend in more smoothly with the Starboard tack boats, because there is no mark to avoid. Also, the skipper will have all his rights, because he has tacked onto Starboard outside the four-boat length circle. Good sailing!

