

FETCHING

A boat is *fetching* a *mark* when she is in a position to pass to windward of it and leave it on the required side without changing *tack*.

Assume you are on *starboard tack* approaching the windward *mark* to be left to port. You are sailing a close-hauled course and it is close whether you are going to make it around the *mark*. You luff up to head to wind, coast around the *mark*, and then bear away onto the next leg of the course. You “fetched” the *mark* because you never went past head to wind during your rounding maneuver. If you had gone past head to wind, you would have instantly changed tack from starboard tack to port tack and you would have failed to “fetch” the mark. Anytime you are in a position where you can “fetch” the mark, you are fetching.

Note, if a boat is approaching a port-hand windward mark on port tack, and tack to round the mark (i.e., change tack), she is not fetching the mark.