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3. Database on ship collision accidents

At the IABSE International Colloquium on «Ship Collisions with Bridges and Offshore Structures» in Copenhagen 1983 it was proposed that a generally accessible collection of reliable data on ship collision accidents should be established. Several proposals concerning types of data to be collected and stored were put forward during the discussions.

The Danish Organizing Committee of the colloquium has proposed to finance the establishment of such a data collection, in the form of a computerized file or database, from the excess revenue of the colloquium. IABSE has accepted the proposal and has decided to house the database and to undertake the future management and updating

As further mentioned in the Preface in the Final Report, IABSE has established a Sub-Committee to deal with the ship collision problem in general.

Mr. Ole Damgaard Larsen has been appointed a member of this Sub-Committee and has also been asked by the Danish Organizing Committee to take over the responsibility for the establishment of the database.

The work, which will be closely coordinated with other activities of the IABSE Sub-Committee, will be spread over a year to allow time for communication with interested parties all over the world. The database is scheduled to be in operation by the middle of 1985.

Schedule of development activities for establishment of a computerized file or database for ship collision accidents

- a) Investigation of parameters to be incorporated in the database:

The starting point will be the standard form shown in A. G. Frandsens paper published in the Introductory Report of the Colloquium. The data requirements expressed during the colloquium will be considered and the relevant authors and contributors to the discussions will be contacted in order to clarify these requirements. Other parties (authorities, research institutions, etc.) with potential interest in the subject will also be consulted. The development of a standard data record form will conclude this activity.

- b) Definition of limitations regarding accident cases to be recorded:

If only serious accidents (i.e. accidents which have caused interruption of bridge traffic) are recorded the database will be relatively complete, but with a very limited number of records. If a more broad registration is carried out (i.e. including «glancing blows», «near misses» etc.) the contents of the database will be incomplete, reflecting geographic and technical incompletenesses. A broad registration will be preferred in order to create a comprehensive basis for statistical studies.

- c) Collection of data for the database:

Relevant technical literature (IABSE-colloquium papers and references, etc.), existing databases, specific marine accident reports, relevant authorities, insurance companies etc. will be consulted.

- d) Implementation of the database:

The database will be implemented and tested and a programme of announcements and PR-activities will be prepared and effected to make the public aware of the new database facility.

- e) Establishment of routines for keeping the database up to data:

A managing body will be appointed (e.g. under IABSE Working Commission I) together with reporting agencies in all countries (e.g. IABSE National Groups). Agreement with authorities, insurance companies etc. should be established regarding information on accidents.

Readers who would like to contribute to this research programme are invited to contact:

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