

# **Casualty Investigation**

**Cooperation between States in practice**

**Experience from the investigation of the  
KAREN DANIELSEN's collision with the  
Great Belt Bridge on 3 March 2005**

by

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## The Division for Investigation of Maritime Accidents

Head of Division, 3 marine accident investigators,  
1 employee (quality control, database and  
translation)

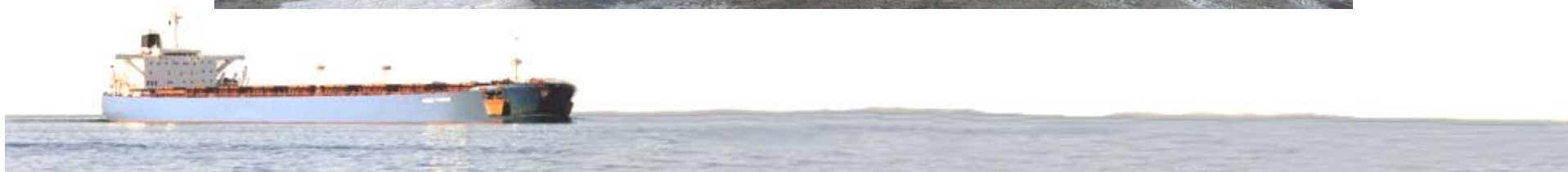


## Order on the investigation of Accidents at sea

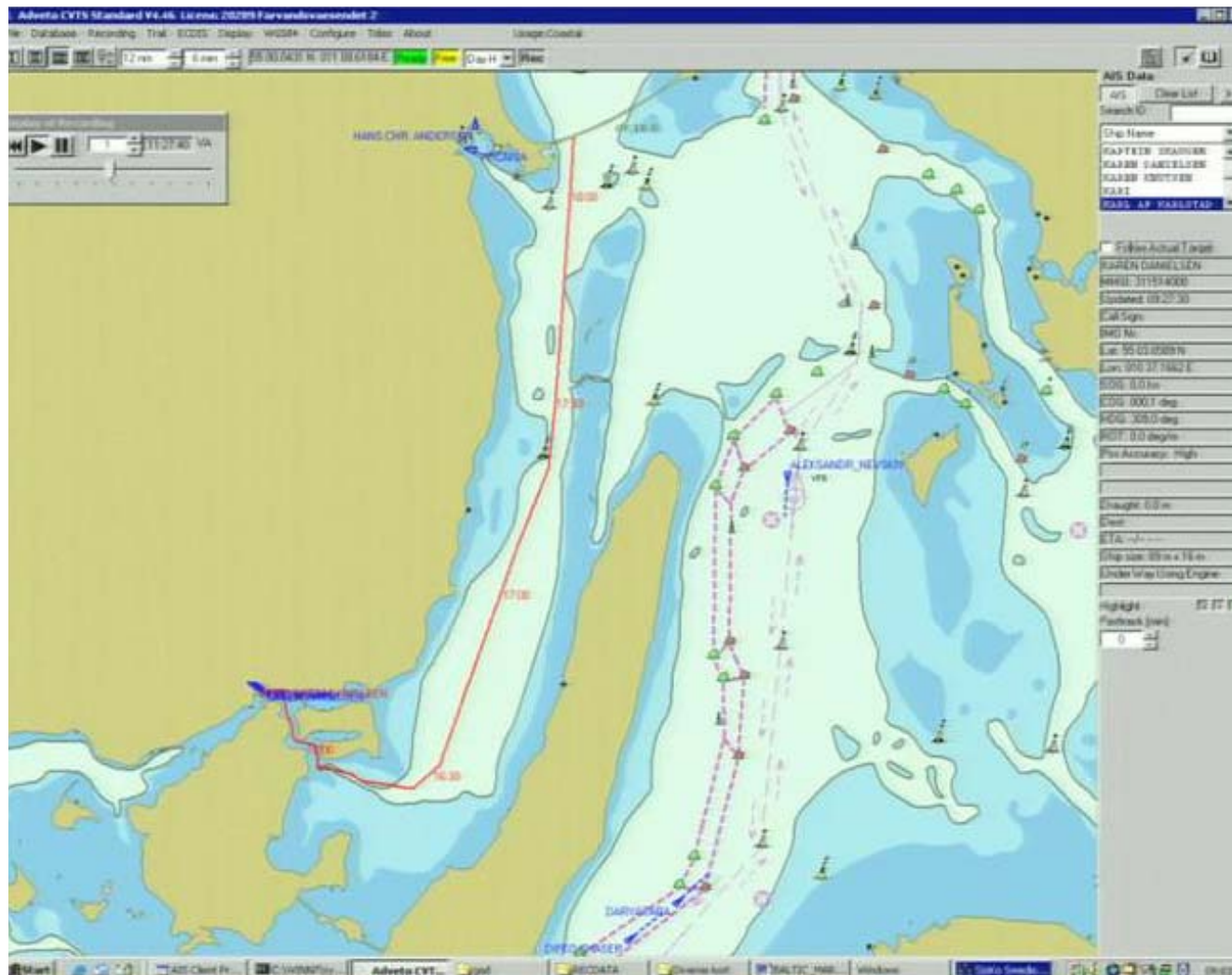
*The investigations.....shall be carried out  
separate from other functions and activities of  
the Danish Maritime Authority*



# KAREN DANIELSEN



# AIS data



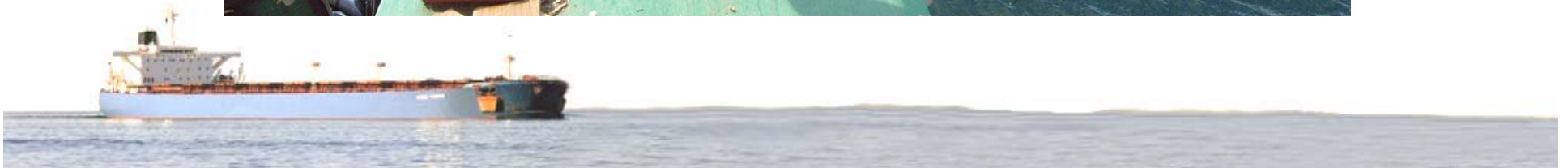


# VTS





The technical investigation began....





And continued....





## **A joint investigation of Bahamas and Denmark**

First contact between Bahamas and Denmark

Collection of statements from the crewmembers,  
technical investigations and cooperation with the  
police immediately after the accident

Both Bahamas and Denmark were present at the  
accident site



## **The investigation continued.....**

- Statements from the VTS officers and electronic evidence from VTS
- Information from the technical managers
- Statement from the pilot
- AIS information from the Royal Danish Administration of Navigation and Hydrography
- GPS evidence
- ISM – Classification society



## Exchange of evidence

- Police reports – special agreement
- Statements in Danish – not translated – Bahamas present at some of the interviews
- Factual information from the statements included in the draft report
- The VTS investigation
- All other evidence was exchanged





# **The writing of a joint Marine Accident Report**

Preliminary report in Danish

Agreement to write a joint report

Writing the draft – exchange of draft report and comments on E-mails – many times



## Order on the investigation of accidents at sea

### *Cooperation with foreign authorities*

*The Division for Investigation of Maritime Accidents may cooperate with the maritime authorities of other states concerned about investigations and may in this connection render information to these authorities to the extent necessary, including the rendering of information about records in the involved ships' Voyage Data Recorders*



## A positive and practical approach to the cooperation between States

We **want** to cooperate !

Cooperation partners recent years:

Sweden, Norway, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, United Kingdom, Isle of Man, China, Malta, Cyprus, Bahamas, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Bulgaria.....





# BALTIC CARRIER and TERN - 2001



# FU SHAN HAI and GDYNIA - 2003





## Different levels of cooperation

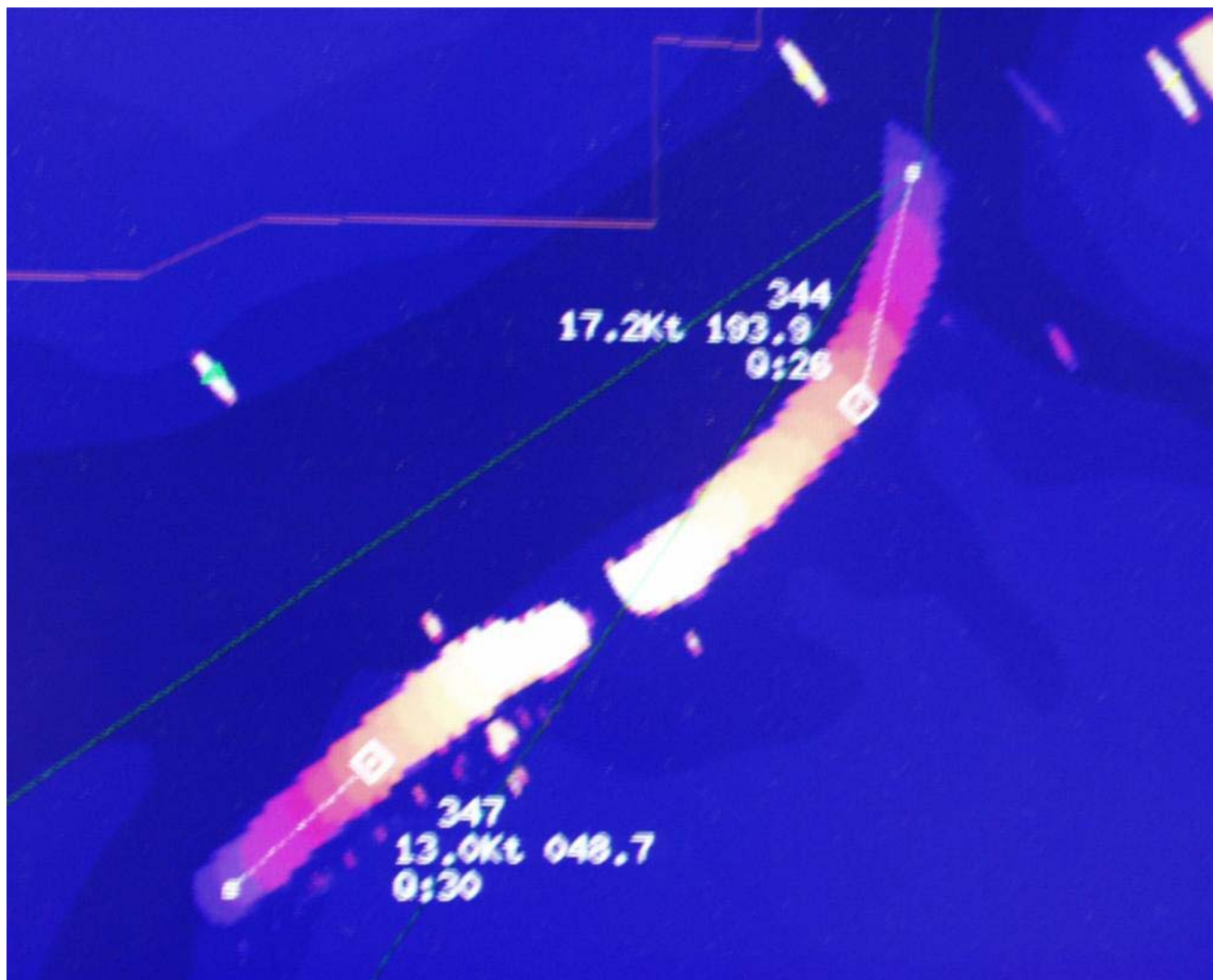
- Joint investigation and joint report – KAREN DANIELSEN
- Investigation and report made by one state. Comments to draft from other states – BALTIC CARRIER / FU SHAN HAI
- Investigation and report made by one state. Information to other states.

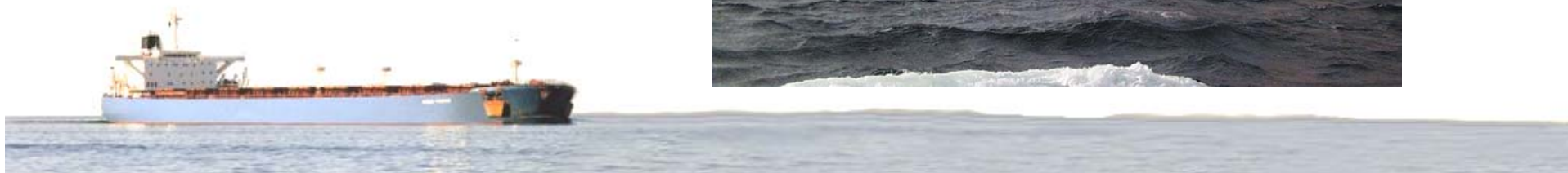
There is no distinct division between the levels





# BERGITTA and MSC EYRA





## Exchange of evidence and statements after collisions

- Statements from both ships must be given ?
- Marine inquiry – "closed doors" ?
- *Evidence can only be used by the Investigation Division until the investigation is finished ?*
- Example: FINNMERCHANT and EATON - 2002





## **Cooperation with own national authorities**

- The police
- The VTS centres
- The rescue centres
- The Royal Danish Administration of Navigation and Hydrography (AIS)
- The pilots



## **Disagreements on**

- The conduct of the investigation
- The conclusions and recommendations

Are compromises possible in conclusions of accident investigations ?

Several reports on the same accident ?

Several opinions in the same report ?



We have never experienced serious disagreements

It is easy to cooperate

Respect the legislation of the other States

**Have a pragmatic approach**



[www.dma.dk](http://www.dma.dk)

go to

***Casualty Investigation***

and read

***Legislation, Marine Accident Reports and Safety  
Studies of the Division for Investigation of  
Maritime Accidents***

