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A Proposal of Guidance to the Master of a Damaged Passenger Ship for Deciding to Return to Port

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Summary: At the International Maritime Organization (IMO), guidelines for reference by masters in assessing operational damage stability for safe return to port by own power or tow is to be developed. To contribute to the works at the IMO, a method to assess the capability for safe voyage to port is proposed on the basis of the weather criterion which is used to guarantee the safety of a dead ship in intact condition in beam wind and waves. To apply the criterion to a damaged ship, a simple prediction method for the roll damping created by internal water is deduced on the basis of experimental data. Using the predicted roll damping, a wind speed limitation for safe return to port of a damaged passenger ships can be calculated by the weather criterion. The results demonstrate that threshold in terms of wind speed depends on ship size and water depth on flooded deck as well as damage length.

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