



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 681 of 5^h May 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Biofouling Guidelines
Reference	AFC- MEPC.207 (62)

Progress on Revision of the Biofouling Guidelines

The Sub-Committee considered the Report which was tasked to review the Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species (Resolution MEPC.207(62)). In some regions, the primary mode of transport for invasive species is biofouling.

The Guidelines should be restructured to follow the logical sequence of ship management (from start to finish of service life). Formal definitions should be provided for:

- In-water ship grooming and in-water ship cleaning.
- Definition of "Hull"
- Improved definition of "niche areas" and
- Quantitative definition of "microfouling" and "macrofouling"

Quantitative definition of "microfouling" and "macrofouling" could be made in terms of thickness and substances/species, and that simple and practical definitions could be relevant in providing consistent approaches to biofouling management.

The revised Guidelines should include acceptable hull inspection procedures for measurements of biofouling. Because the Guidelines are currently voluntary, it may not be suitable to advise on acceptance level criteria. Criteria to be included for inspection procedures to measure, assess, and describe the biofouling.

Macrofouling could be successfully cleaned and captured during in-water cleaning.

The Correspondence Group has been tasked to revise the Biofouling Guidelines (using a framework for the new guidance document which has already being drafted) and submit a report to PPR 9 (Spring 2022).

REFERENCES:

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ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

CONARINA Head Office

5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9th. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
Joel@conarinagroup.com