



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 723 of 7th March 2022

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Alternatives to anti-foul paint
Reference	AFS Convention

Alternatives to anti-foul paint

There are a couple of innovations which are great solutions to traditional anti-foul paint, which no paints.

Ultrasonic anti-foul paint.

Ultrasonic anti-foul uses tiny high frequency sounds, ultrasound to prevent species from making home on ship bottom with absolutely no need for paint.

The sound is so tiny we humans cannot hear it, and given its surrounds the very close proximity of the hull, has very little impact on sonar or the ability of marine species, such as whales and dolphins, to communicate with each other.

Ultrasonic system use a little of battery power on board to work, with little negative impact on our waters and marine species. This saves the time, energy and costs associated with pulling the ship out of the water to repaint the hull every two years or three.

Anti-foul film

A more recent innovation in anti-fouling techniques specifically focused on keeping our seas clean minimising collateral damage to marine life are products such as Fisulate.

Saving time, costs and energy of undocking the ship every two to three years as well as keeping seas cleaner, anti-fouls such as Fisulate cover ship hull with a film.

Taking inspiration from the spines of sea urchins (a marine echinoderm that has a spherical or flattened shell covered in mobile spines, with a mouth on the underside and calcareous jaws), the

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films covered in tiny spines which prevent the hull surface being able to attach themselves to ship bottoms. The process effectively reduces the hull surface to just 5% of its total area so that marine organisms such as barnacles and algae can only make home on the tiny tips of the spines.

REFERENCES:

- International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems in Ships

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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