



Technical Circular

No.: 138/2017

Date: 21st November 2017

To whomsoever it may concern

Subject: Bahamas Maritime authority information bulletin No. 171 regarding control and management of Ships' Biofouling.

- In order to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species; implementation of the Biofouling management practices is critical; which includes use of antifouling systems and operational management practices to reduce development of biofouling.
- IMO MEPC adopted resolution MEPC .207 (62) providing consistent approach to the management of biofouling.
- Based on this resolution, Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) has encouraged owners/operators, companies in implementing the resolution MEPC .207 (62) to their ships and provided specific regional requirements for certain regions vide information bulletin no.171.
- The vessels are required to develop and maintain a Biofouling Management Plan specific to the vessel and a Biofouling Record Book onboard vessel.
- Administration has produced a biofouling record book which can be ordered from the BMA publications section on the administration's website.
- Specific requirements for certain regions are summarized below:
 - a. **California's requirements:**
 - Reporting under Biofouling Management Regulations became effective from 01st October 2017 and is applicable to vessels of 300 GT or above arriving at California Ports.
 - Vessels are required to submit completed "Marine Invasive Species Program Annual vessel Reporting Form" (SLC 600.12, revised 01/17-refer enclosures) at least 24 hours in advance of the first arrival of calendar year at any California port.
 - Other requirements will be applicable to
 - i. Existing vessel after first regularly scheduled dry dock after 1st January 2018
 - ii. New Vessels delivered on or after January 1, 2018



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- The biofouling management plan should be at least consistent with resolution MEPC.207 (62) which includes details of anti-fouling systems and operational practices & treatments used, scheduled of planned inspections, repairs, maintenance and renewal of anti-fouling systems etc.
- The Biofouling Record book should be consistent with resolution MEPC.207 (62) containing the details of all inspections & biofouling management undertaken on ship since its most recent dry docking.
- Anti-fouling practices used by a ship should be listed in its Biofouling Management Plan and actions to be recorded in biofouling record book.
- For the vessels that had undergone an extended residency period (remaining in one port consecutively for 45 days or longer) since its most recent dry dock; any action or activity undertaken to manage biofouling of the wetted surfaces of the vessel are to be recorded in Biofouling Record Book.
- Also it is to be noted that propeller cleaning is prohibited in California.

b. New Zealand Government's requirements:

- Biosecurity requirements of New Zealand government will come into force from May 2018 and will be applicable for all incoming vessels.
 - Ships will be required to have a clean hull while arriving in New Zealand.
 - Ships are required to follow current best practice in biofouling management and carry evidence of same onboard for verification.
 - Compliance with resolution MEPC. 207 (62) will be considered as meeting its requirements.
- Ship owners / operators and masters are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure:

1. Bahamas Maritime authority information bulletin No.171

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