

March, 2014

IMO Guidelines: Control & Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species

It should be well known to shipowners operating under the Faroese flag that in 2010 the Faroe Islands have ratified the Anti Fouling Systems Convention. By that Faroese standards and requirements to anti fouling procedures, incl. the control and management of ships' biofouling are aligned with the guidelines coming from IMO.

Hence, the FMA hereby draws your attention to the enclosed Resolution MEPC.207(62) and to the accompanying MEPC.1/Circ.811.

By the mentioned circular Member States are requested *to take urgent action in applying the mentioned Guidelines* from 2011, and to ensure the dissemination thereof to the shipping industry and other interested parties. In doing so Member States are advised to take the appended guidelines (see Annex to the resolution, pp. 2 – 16) into account when adopting measures to minimize the risk of introducing invasive aquatic species via biofouling. Finally, Member States are encouraged to report to the MEPC on any experience gained in the implementation of the guidelines.

Objectives

The objectives of the Guidelines are to provide practical guidance ship masters, ship operators, owners and others on measures to *minimize the risk of transferring invasive aquatic species from ships' biofouling*. To do that ships are guided to implement **biofouling management practices** with the aim of *keeping the ship's submerged surfaces and internal seawater cooling systems as free of biofouling as practical*.

Biofouling Management Plan & Record Book

To attain the above objectives IMO has issued guidelines with respect to the individual ship's Biofouling Management Plan and Record Book. For practical instructions on the topic, please see Item 5 through item 7 on pp. 5 – 12 in the attached Resolution along with Appendixes 1 & 2 thereto (pp. 17 – 25).

Re. item 9 the Resolution on dissemination of the guidelines is being raised in the local Faroese IMO co-ordination group. The objective is to identify possible further actions that may be required by the authorities.

Re. item 10, education on the biofouling, this issue has been raised with the Faroese maritime school, and a confirmation has been received that their intention is to include the topic in the subject "ship maintenance".

MEPC.1/Circ.811

Regarding the evaluation of the implementation of the Guidelines, the FMA will instigate follow-up surveys at appropriate stages in time from this initial newsletter of information.

Enclosure: Resolution MEPC 207(2)
MEPC.1/Circ.811

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