HOW CAN YOU MANAGE MARINE BIOFOULING ON YOUR RECREATIONAL BOAT?

WHAT IS RECREATIONAL BOAT BIOFOULING?

Biofouling refers to organisms attached to or associated with underwater or wetted surfaces of a vessel. Recreational boat biofouling can occur on the hull of your boat and on a variety of recesses and appendages collectively referred to as niche areas (e.g. propellers, rudders, intakes).

WHY IS MANAGING RECREATIONAL BOAT BIOFOULING IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Managing biofouling protects your investment, saves fuel, and prevents the spread of aquatic invasive species.

BIOFOULING IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE INTRODUCTION AND SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.

Aquatic invasive species are non-native species that threaten the diversity or abundance of native species, the ecological stability of infested waters, or any commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.



USE BEST PRACTICES DESCRIBED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS HANDOUT TO MANAGE BIOFOULING ON YOUR BOAT

BEST PRACTICES FOR BIOFOULING MANAGEMENT

COAT YOUR BOAT

Applying an approved antifouling coating suited for your boat's operating profile to the surfaces indicated in this figure can minimize biofouling growth, promote efficient sailing, and save you money.

CLEAN BEFORE YOU GO 🕨

Cleaning before moving between regions increases fuel efficiency and reduces the likelihood of introducing aquatic invasive species. DON'T FORGET - Check with local authorities to understand the rules before you clean.

SELECT AND USE APPROPRIATE CLEANING METHODS

Maintenance that prevents biofouling from growing beyond a "slime layer" will reduce drag, promote efficient sailing, and maintain your paint investment. Hauling your boat out to be cleaned at a certified boat yard is the most protective option. Consult with your paint manufacturer and hull maintenance company on in-water cleaning best practices & enquire about debris capture systems.

DEVELOP A PLAN FOR MANAGING BIOFOULING ON YOUR BOAT 🕨

Maintain antifouling paint integrity to manufacturer specifications. A biofouling logbook will help you plan biofouling treatments and evaluate effectiveness of cleaning and maintenance actions.

DID YOU KNOW

Commercially available coating types include antifouling biocide-based, biocide-free foul release, and biocide-free hard coatings.

DON'T FORGET!

RUDDER & STERN GEAR

Cooling pipes, anchor wells, and other internal surfaces exposed to water should also be cleaned regularly.



or more info: www.westernregionalpanel.org

Produced by the Coastal Committee of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, with representatives from Hawaii, Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California.

HULL SURFACE