

Guidance on the verification of Biofouling Management and Sediment Management Plans as required by 33 CFR 151.2050(g)(3).

In addition to the transfer of ballast water, invasive aquatic species can be transferred by biofouling of a ship's hull. Biofouling is defined as the accumulation of aquatic organisms such as micro-organisms, plants, and animals on surfaces and structures immersed in or exposed to the aquatic environment.

Requirements for vessels that came into effect on June 21, 2012 calls for the incorporation of detailed fouling maintenance and sediment removal procedures in the BWM plan. These procedures may be incorporated into the vessels existing BWM plan or be separate Biofouling Management and Sediment Management Plans and referenced in the BWM plan. If referenced as separate plans, the fouling maintenance and sediment removal procedures shall be available for inspection. It is important that these procedures and plans are specific to each ship.

Biofouling Management Plan:

The intent of a biofouling management plan should be to provide effective procedures for biofouling management. The biofouling management plan may be a stand-alone document, or integrated as part of the ship's operational procedures and referenced in the ballast water management plan. Guidelines for the development of biofouling management plans can be found in IMO RESOLUTION MEPC.207(62).

To mitigate the problems associated with biofouling the following information should be addressed in the fouling maintenance procedures:

1. Introduction- explaining the need for biofouling management and the importance of accurate record keeping.
2. Ships particulars.
3. Description of Anti-fouling system and operational practices or treatments used.
4. Description of vessel operations that has determined performance specification of anti-fouling systems.
5. Operation of anti-fouling system. A detailed description of the operating and maintenance of the ant-fouling system used.
6. Safety procedures for the vessel and crew
7. Recordkeeping requirements. Details of the types of documentation recorded

and collected regarding the treatment system.

To clarify the requirements regarding ballast water management (BWM) plans mandated in 33 CFR 151.2050, the following inspection/exam guidance shall be followed: Inspectors and PSCOs shall verify a BWM plan meeting the requirements of 33 CFR 151.2050(g) is on board the vessel. Guidelines for the content for detailed fouling maintenance and sediment removal procedures can be found in IMO RESOLUTIONS MEPC.207(62)/127(53).