



GUIDANCE NOTES ON

BIOFOULING MANAGEMENT PLANS

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**American Bureau of Shipping
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Foreword

While the adoption of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water & Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention) represents a significant commitment by the IMO Member States to reducing the spread of harmful species and pathogens, studies have indicated that biofouling of ships can also contribute to the spread of potentially invasive organisms.

Noting the potential for invasive aquatic species to be transferred through biofouling, Administrations and the IMO, respectively, have established Regulations and Guidelines aimed at reducing the risk of the transfer of invasive aquatic species via biofouling.

In association with the various management practices contained within these Regulations and Guidelines, Administrations and the IMO have recommended the development, implementation, and periodic review of a Biofouling Management Plan.

IMO Resolution MEPC.207(62) contains Guidelines that recommend every ship have a Biofouling Management Plan and a Biofouling Record Book onboard. In and of themselves, these Guidelines are not mandatory. However, regular reference should be made to the latest requirements of individual States to determine the scope of implementation to ships entitled to fly the flag, and to ships operating in the jurisdictional waters, of that State.

To assist the marine industry, ABS is issuing these Guidance Notes and Template to provide practical assistance to ship masters, operators and owners, shipbuilders, ship cleaning and maintenance operators, and other interested parties in the development of a Biofouling Management Plan.

The text of these Guidance Notes and Template is intended to complement current maintenance practices carried out within the industry.

These Guidance Notes become effective on 15 January 2013.

Users are advised to check periodically on the ABS website www.eagle.org to verify that this version of these Guidance Notes is the most current.

We welcome your feedback. Comments or suggestions can be sent electronically by email to rsd@eagle.org.

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