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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Industry standard on in-water cleaning with capture

Submitted by BIMCO and ICS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information about an industry standard on in-water cleaning with capture that was published in January 2021 and suggests that it be included in the Organization's review of the *2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species* (resolution MEPC.207(62))

Strategic direction, if applicable: 1

Output: 1.21

Action to be taken: Paragraph 17

Related documents: PPR 7/7/1 and PPR 8/4

Introduction

1 MEPC 72 agreed a new output entitled Review of the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (resolution MEPC.207(62)).

2 Biofouling management is an important issue for shipowners because biofouling has the potential to transfer invasive aquatic species and to increase a ship's drag in the water. An increased drag significantly reduces the hydrodynamic performance of a ship and increases its power and fuel consumption, thereby impacting the ship's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

3 As part of biofouling management, a ship will continually monitor changes in hull performance and biofouling condition of the submerged parts of the hull. This will enable the shipowner to initiate in-water cleaning with due diligence before the biofouling growth becomes severe.

4 In document PPR 7/7/1, BIMCO informed about an industry working group that had set out to develop an industry standard on in-water cleaning. The standard will help to ensure that the in-water cleaning of a ship's hull, and niche areas including the propeller, can be carried out safely, efficiently and in an environmentally sustainable way.

5 More than 25 participants from Administrations, anti-fouling system (AFS) manufacturers, international organizations, in-water cleaning companies, laboratories, paint manufacturers and shipowners participated in the work which lasted three years.

The industry standard

6 Two documents were published in late January 2021 by BIMCO and ICS:

- .1 Approval procedure for in-water cleaning companies; and
- .2 Industry standard on in-water cleaning with capture.

7 The links to the two papers can be found here:

Approval procedure: <https://www.bimco.org/about-us-and-our-members/publications/approval-procedure-for-in-water-cleaning-companies>; and

Industry standard: <https://www.bimco.org/about-us-and-our-members/publications/industry-standard-on-in-water-cleaning-with-capture>.

8 A cleaning company can be approved to clean different areas on the ship. The approval procedure for in-water cleaning companies divides hull and niche areas into different categories according to the different cleaning systems required to clean and capture materials. This distinction was made due to different tools being used to clean those respective areas.

9 The approval procedure addresses minimum requirements on approving in-water cleaners based on testing verified by accredited laboratories and certificates issued by an independent approval body. The quality management system developed and implemented by the in-water cleaning company will be regularly audited by the approval body.

10 The standard on in-water cleaning with capture outlines the requirements for planning and carrying out in-water cleaning while the ship is alongside or at anchorage. It addresses a planned approach by all stakeholders connected to in-water cleaning: the shipowner, cleaning company, AFS manufacturer, the port and other relevant authorities.

Present situation

11 In February 2021, a small-scale implementation project was initiated by an industry working group with membership from relevant stakeholders.

12 The aim of this project is to help cleaning companies to obtain approval and assist shipowners in their management of biofouling in accordance with the requirements of the standard.

13 As approvals are based on each cleaning company being tested on minimum three different ships, the implementation project seeks to solve the logistical puzzle by finding a ship with visible fouling, a cleaning company that is ready to be tested, and an approval body, which, in cooperation with a testing organization, will be able to conduct the test at the right place at the agreed time.

14 Based on the experiences gained and feedback from participants, the working group members will initiate a revision of the documents mentioned in paragraph 6.

Proposal

15 The co-sponsors are of the view that the industry standard on in-water cleaning with capture and the accompanying explanatory notes can be of valuable support to the ongoing work at PPR on the review of resolution MEPC.207(62).

16 The co-sponsors propose that this document be sent to the re-established Correspondence Group on Review of the Biofouling Guidelines, under the coordination of Norway, for its further consideration.

Action requested of the Committee

17 The Committee is invited to note the comments provided, consider the proposal in paragraphs 15 and 16 in this document and take action, as appropriate.
