

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

11495 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, RESTON, VIRGINIA 20191-1506
TELEPHONE: +1-703-620-4880 FAX: +1-703-476-8522
EMAIL: maritime@register-iri.com WEBSITE: www.register-iri.com

MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 35-17

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: NEW CALIFORNIA BIOFOULING REGULATIONS

Date: 21 August 2017

New biofouling regulations and reporting requirements will be in effect for vessels of 300 gross tons (GT) or more, calling at a California port, starting 01 October 2017. These requirements will be implemented by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) following its approval of [Article 4.8](#), *Biofouling Management Regulations to Minimize the Transport of Nonindigenous Species from Vessels Arriving at California Ports*.

The implementation will be in a two-stage process:

- 1.0** Starting on 01 October 2017, all vessels will have to submit a completed *Marine Invasive Species Program Annual Vessel Reporting Form* ([SLC 600.12, Revised 01/17](#)) at least twenty-four hours in advance of the first arrival of the calendar year at a California port. The previously required *Hull Husbandry Reporting Form* will no longer be used.
- 2.0** Starting on 01 January 2018, additional requirements for newly constructed vessels delivered into service on or after 01 January 2018, and to existing vessels beginning with completion of the first regularly scheduled out-of-water maintenance on or after 01 January 2018, will include:
 - .1 Development of a Biofouling Management Plan, specifically for the vessel, providing a description of the biofouling management strategy for the vessel in sufficient detail to allow a Master or other appropriate ship's officer or crew member serving on the vessel to understand and follow the biofouling management strategy.
 - .2 Creation and maintenance of a Biofouling Record Book, retained onboard the vessel, which must contain details of all inspections and biofouling management measures undertaken on the vessel since the beginning of the most recent scheduled out-of-water maintenance or since delivery into service as a newly constructed vessel if no out-of-water maintenance has yet occurred.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

- .3 Documentation of all biofouling management actions in the Biofouling Record Book, especially in niche areas such as sea chests and gratings, bow and stern thrusters and gratings, fin stabilizers and recesses, out-of-water support strips, propellers and shafts, and rudders. Biofouling management in these areas must be managed using biofouling management practices that are appropriate for the vessel and its service.
- .4 For any vessel that has had an extended residency period since its most recent out-of-water maintenance, in-water treatment, or in-water cleaning, upon arrival to a California port, the vessel must be compliant with the management of biofouling in the niche areas described above, and any activities, including in-water inspection, in-water cleaning, in-water treatment, or out-of-water maintenance, to manage biofouling on the wetted surfaces of the vessel, except the niche areas, that accumulates as a result of the extended residency period shall be documented in the Biofouling Record Book.

The full text of these requirements can be found in [CSLC Title 2, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4.8](#), as amended. The CLSC has also advised that it is developing a series of Customer Service meetings in northern and southern California and an internet-based webinar to provide outreach and answer any questions that may arise from the implementation of these regulations. These meetings will be held in mid-late September, and the CSLC has advised it will publish meeting details shortly.

In the interim, concerned parties may wish to contact Mr. Chris Scianni at Chris.Scianni@slc.ca.go; via telephone at +1 (562) 499-6390, or refer to the [CSLC's web page](#).