



Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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Marine Advisory: 13/2022-Rev.1

SUBJECT: Mandatory Biofouling Management Requirements for Vessels Arriving at Australian Ports

The following changes have been included:

1. Updated to indicate 2023 Biofouling Guidelines

Dear Shipowners/Operators/Masters:

The purpose of this Marine Advisory is to provide guidance on the requirements for managing biofouling on vessels arriving in Australia, which began on 15 June 2022.

Operators of all vessels subject to biosecurity control will be required to provide information on how biofouling has been managed prior to arriving in Australian territorial seas. This information will need to be reported through the department's [Maritime Arrivals Reporting System \(MARS\)](#).

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will use the information to target vessel interventions. This will allow more efficient use of resources and statutory powers to assess and inspect vessels, and more effective response to unacceptable biosecurity risks associated with biofouling.

Vessel operators will receive less intervention for biofouling if they comply with one of the following three accepted biofouling management practices:

1. Implementation of an effective biofouling management plan; or
2. Cleaned all biofouling within 30 days prior to arriving in Australian territory; or
3. Implementation of an alternative biofouling management method pre-approved by the department.

A vessel operator that has not applied one of the three accepted biofouling management practices will be subject to further questions and assessment of the biosecurity risk associated with biofouling on the vessel.

A Biofouling Management Plan and associated Record Book that are compliant with the International Maritime Organization's [2023 Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species \(Biofouling Guidelines\)](#), will be considered sufficient in meeting the Australian biofouling management requirements. Additional guidance can be found in the [Australian biofouling management requirements](#) and at the [Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#) webpage.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Regulations and Standards Department at RegsAndStandards@lisr.com.

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