

# Biofouling, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Commercial Fishing Vessels: BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

## WHY SHOULD YOU MANAGE BIOFOULING? ◀◀◀

Managing biofouling saves you money by protecting your equipment and reducing fuel consumption. Managing biofouling further prevents the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) that could harm commercially important fisheries and local economies that depend on healthy fisheries.



## WHAT IS BIOFOULING?

Biofouling refers to organisms attached to or associated with underwater or wetted surfaces of a vessel. Your fishing equipment, the hull of your boat, and other boat structures such as propellers, rudders, and intakes can accumulate biofouling.



Photo: Kim Holzier,  
Smithsonian Environmental  
Research Center



**WESTERN REGIONAL PANEL**  
ON AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

PRODUCED BY THE COASTAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL PANEL ON AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

Use the following resources for more information:

WEBSITE: <http://westernregionalpanel.org> | EMAIL: [Coastal@westernregionalpanel.org](mailto:Coastal@westernregionalpanel.org)

# BEST PRACTICES

Follow this checklist to become part of the solution!



## DURING OPERATIONAL PERIODS

Follow these best practices while your vessel is operational to increase fuel efficiency, save money, and reduce the spread of AIS.

- CLEAN BEFORE YOU GO**  
Cleaning your hull, holds, and niche areas before moving between regions increases fuel efficiency and reduces the spread of AIS. **DON'T FORGET** – check the local rules before you clean.
- DEFOUL YOUR GEAR**  
Cleaning and drying fishing and mooring equipment reduces weight and damage to your gear and reduces the likelihood of transferring AIS.
- COMPLETE THIS CHECKLIST AS PART OF YOUR STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

## DURING MAINTENANCE PERIODS

Follow these maintenance best practices to reduce drag, increase efficiency, and save on fuel costs.

- APPLY AN ANTIFOULING PAINT SUITED FOR YOUR VESSEL'S OPERATIONAL PROFILE**  
To the hull and niche areas (see figure above) to minimize biofouling growth, reduce drag, and save on fuel costs.
- USE APPROPRIATE METHODS TO CLEAN YOUR HULL AND OTHER UNDERWATER SURFACES**  
Preventing and removing biofouling will maintain your paint investment. Consult with your paint manufacturer and hull maintenance company on in-water cleaning best practices and enquire about systems that capture organisms and antifouling paint debris.
- HAUL OUT YOUR BOAT WHEN NOT IN USE & WHEN PRACTICAL**  
This will allow biofouling organisms to dry out and die prior to putting the vessel back into the water. If you clean your boat while hauled out, ensure that the debris doesn't reenter the water.

**CHECK ALL THE BOXES & BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!**  
*It benefits you and the environment!*