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APPLICATION:

Type of ships: **All ships entering ports of New Zealand**
Flag(s): **All flags**

BIOFOULING ON VESSELS ARRIVING TO NEW ZEALAND

Studies undertaken in New Zealand have found that hull biofouling is responsible for the introduction of some 69% of invasive aquatic species as opposed to ballast water, which is responsible for a mere 3% of these species.

In this respect the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) issued a **Craft Risk Management Standard (CRMS)** addressing the biofouling risk associated with vessels arriving at New Zealand ports. The CRMS is scheduled to enter into force on **15 May 2018**, but voluntary compliance is encouraged during the four years leading up to that date.

However, even today, prior to entry into force of the new CRMS, MPI may direct the owners of a vessel that is considered to pose a severe biosecurity risk due to the marine life carried on its hull to take specific action.

The CRMS on biofouling entering into force on 15 May 2018 applies to any vessel that will anchor, berth or be brought ashore in New Zealand after a voyage originating outside New Zealand's territorial waters. In summary, the new regulation:

- Require vessels to arrive with 'clean hulls' - for most vessels 'clean' means no biofouling apart from a slime layer, but for fast turnaround vessels that only visit official ports of arrival, a small amount of biofouling is permitted.
- Provide three options for the proper management of biofouling:
 - a) cleaning before entry (carried out less than 30 days before arrival in New Zealand or within 24 hours after arrival);
 - b) continuous maintenance using best practice, e.g. the IMO's guidelines for management of ships' biofouling in IMO Res. MEPC.207(62); or
 - c) application of approved treatments.
- List the general information which must be provided upon arrival as well as the information which must be provided if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a vessel's hull carries organisms that may cause harm in New Zealand waters.

The link:

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/vessels/arrival-process-steps/biofouling/biofouling-management/> contains:

- Craft Risk Management Standard (CRMS)
- Draft guidance document for the CRMS
- IMO biofouling guidelines (IMO Res. MEPC.207(62))

as well as the other useful documents in respect to ship's compliance with captioned regulations.

Any Inquiries?

For further information please contact:

Croatian Register of Shipping
Marasovica 67
21000 Split
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Person in charge:

Goran Begovic

Phone: +385 (0) 21 408 180

Facsimile: +385 (0) 21 358 159

e-mail: constr@crs.hr