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## Port of Dampier – Port of Dampier Handbook Section 38.2.1 Update – Biofouling Management

Number: D26/2025

Date: 2/12/2025

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<b>Date of effect:</b>	<b>2/12/2025</b>
<b>Details:</b>	<b>Port of Dampier – Port of Dampier Handbook Section 38.2.1 Update – Biofouling Management</b>
<b>Former notice:</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Charts and publications:</b>	<b>Port of Dampier Handbook</b>
<b>Further notice:</b>	<b>This Notice will be cancelled upon revision of the Port of Dampier Handbook</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

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Section 38.2.1 Biofouling Management of the Port of Dampier Port Handbook shall be replaced with the below information in relation to the management of Invasive Marine Pests (IMP). Until the revised handbook is released, all vessels are to follow the information and guidance provided in this Marine Notice.

Biofouling occurs when organisms attach and grow on the submerged parts of a vessel such as the hull, propellers and rudder.

Vessel biofouling can introduce foreign marine species into Australian waters. Once introduced they can spread, threaten healthy marine habitats, and have adverse economic and health effects, including to Australia's important fisheries.

All non-trading vessels are required to comply with the Commonwealth Government (and International Maritime Organisation (IMO)) requirements and the guidance measures in place for the management of biofouling and in water cleaning.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is the Western Australian Government Agency responsible for managing aquatic biosecurity in WA coastal waters. DPIRD requires best practice management to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive marine species and refers to the Australian biofouling requirements set out by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

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 DAFF Maritime Arrivals Reporting System (MARS).

DAFF present three options for proactive biofouling management.

- Option 1 – implementation of an effective biofouling management plan and record book.

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Mariners and other port users are requested to notify the Harbour Master on the discovery of new dangers or suspected dangers to navigation within the port. [All current local Marine Notices are available on our website.](#)

- Option 2 – Cleaned all biofouling within 30 days prior to arriving in Australian Territory.
- Option 3 – Implementation of an alternative biofouling management method pre-approved by the governing body.

For more information and guidance material refer to:

- DAFF [Australian Biofouling Requirements](#)
- DAFF [In-water Cleaning Australia](#)
- IMO [Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species](#) (2023)

In water cleaning is currently prohibited in port waters without permission from Pilbara Ports. This includes any activity that has the potential to disturb or dislodge biofouling on a vessel and/or the vessel's antifoul coating. Such activities include (but are not limited to):

- In-water hull cleaning,
- Cleaning of internal seawater systems (including sea-chests and engine cooling pipes),
- Propeller 'polishing' (cleaning) and
- Careening (i.e. the practice of beaching ships for hull cleaning and antifouling removal).

Pilbara Ports may consider approving such activities in exceptional circumstances, such as where a net environmental benefit or immediate safety risk can be demonstrated. Such applications shall be directed to the Harbour Master.

**Capt. Mike Minogue**  
**Harbour Master**