

**BIOCIDES FROM ANTIFOULING PAINTS IN THE AQUATIC
ENVIRONMENT**

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ABSTRACT

In response to increasing scientific evidence on the toxicity and persistence of organotin residues from antifouling paints in the aquatic environment, the use of triorganotin antifouling products was banned on boats of less than 25m length and aquaculture many countries since 1987. The use of tributyltin (TBT) on small boats was superseded by products based on copper, containing organic booster biocides to improve the efficacy of the formulation. The booster biocides are of potential concern to the environment predominantly due to lack of validated analytical methods for their determination, limited monitoring data, and little information about their fate and toxicity in the marine environment. The possibility of further regulatory action on the use of TBT and also the sensitivity of the coastal areas, in which small craft are used, make the need for assessing these alternative biocides of significant importance.