

RESOLUTION MEPC.46(30)
adopted on 16 November 1990
MEASURES TO CONTROL POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED
WITH USE OF TRIBUTYL TIN COMPOUNDS IN ANTI-FOULING PAINTS

ANNEX 19

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USE OF TRIBUTYL TIN COMPOUNDS IN ANTI-FOULING PAINTS

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

NOTING that scientific studies and investigations by Members and other competent international organizations have shown that tributyl tin compounds can pose substantial risk of toxicity and other chronic impacts to ecologically and economically important marine organisms,

NOTING ALSO that use of tributyl tin compounds in anti-fouling paints for vessels is a significant source of tributyl tin found in the marine environment,

NOTING FURTHER that the existing scientific studies and investigations indicate that adverse impacts associated with tributyl tin compounds are of greatest concern in coastal waters, which by their nature can serve as important habitat and breeding grounds for marine organisms and are subject to concentrated shipping activities,

BEING AWARE that measures to control the use of tributyl tin compounds in anti-fouling paints have been adopted by a number of Governments and competent international organizations,

RECOGNIZING that there is a need for actions to control the use of tributyl tin compounds in anti-fouling paints in order to reduce or eliminate potential adverse impacts to the marine environment,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that there are a number of different measures and approaches which can be used to reduce the potential for such adverse impacts,

AGREES:

- (a) to recommend that Governments adopt and promote effective measures within their jurisdictions to control the potential for adverse impacts to the marine environment associated with the use of tributyl tin compounds in anti-fouling paints, and as an interim measure specifically consider actions as follows:
 - (i) to eliminate the use of anti-fouling paints containing tributyl tin compounds on non-aluminium hulled vessels of less than 25 m in length,
 - (ii) to eliminate the use of anti-fouling paints containing tributyl tin compounds which have an average release rate of more than 4 microgrammes of organotin per square centimetre per day,

- (iii) to develop sound management practice guidance applicable to ship maintenance and construction facilities to eliminate the introduction of tributyl tin compounds into the marine environment as a result of painting, paint removal, cleaning, sandblasting, or waste disposal operations, or run-off from such facilities,
 - (iv) to encourage development of alternatives to anti-fouling paints containing tributyl tin compounds, giving due regard to any potential environmental hazards which might be posed by such alternative formulations, and
 - (v) to engage in monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of control measures adopted and provide for sharing such data with other interested parties;
- (b) to consider appropriate ways towards the possible total prohibition in the future on the use of tributyl tin compounds in anti-fouling paints for ships.

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