



Commodities Expertise  
**Biofouling Assessment  
Services**



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# Biofouling Assessment Services

Biofouling, or the accumulation of aquatic organisms on ship's hulls, is a widespread and costly problem affecting commercial vessels and marine installations.

Biofouling is not only an environmental problem, contributing to the distribution of invasive aquatic species, but also an operational one, leading to reduced vessel speeds, fuel over-consumption, and damaged antifouling paints requiring costly repairs at drydock.

Brookes Bell's marine biology consultants are perfectly placed to advise and provide expert witness services on biofouling



Barnacles and tubeworms photographed on a ship's hull during drydocking survey



Measuring barnacles during drydocking survey



Barnacles, tubeworms, and soft fouling photographed on a ship's hull during drydocking survey

affecting the marine sector. We offer a multidisciplinary approach incorporating the expertise of our in-house coatings experts, master mariners, and marine engineers to address all aspects of biofouling, including fouling origin, antifouling paint condition, and biofouling effects on speed and consumption. Together with our academic contacts, we provide the following services:

## **Review of historical information provided well after an incident to determine**

- Biofouling origins
- Paint condition
- Effects of previous hull cleanings

## **Swift, practical advice for current biofouling issues including guidance on**

- Sampling methods for biofouling and paint
- Collecting photographic/video evidence of biofouling and/or paint damage
- Current and emerging hull fouling regulations
- Environmental regulations and technology for preventing the transfer of invasive species

## **Expert attendance at in-water and drydocking surveys**

- Collection of biofouling and paint samples
- Supervision of cleaning operations to ensure minimal paint damage
- Paint inspection reports detailing hull paint condition and performance

## **Expert witness testimony at arbitration for charterparty disputes**

## **Biofouling Sample Assessment**

- Fouling origins using collected or couriered biofouling samples
- Paint failure using in-house analytical techniques

## **Biofouling workshops and training to support clients' understanding**

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## Contact

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