



Clean Annapolis River Project

Pesticide Inventory Marine Sector Fact Sheet

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Pesticide Use in Marine Environments

Antifouling agents are pesticides used in marine environments. Antifouling paints are applied to the hulls of boats to prevent the attachment of marine organisms such as barnacles and algae. Once attached, these organisms add to the weight of the ship, reduce its speed and increase its fuel consumption. Other antifouling agents can be applied to gear such as ropes, nets, etc.



Methodology

Data on the use of antifouling agents in the watershed was gathered from the following sources:

- Marine supply stores were visited and asked to share the last year's antifouling agents' sales data.
- Boatyards were approached and asked to share information on application of antifouling agents over the last year.
- Aquaculture operations were contacted and questioned on their use of antifouling agents.

Information on insecticide use in aquaculture to combat sea lice infestations was also sought.

Results

It was determined that the marine sector applied approximately 572kg of one active ingredient, cuprous oxide, in the last year, accounting for 1% of total pesticide application in the watershed. Below is a breakdown of this total among marine supply stores, boatyards and aquaculture.

Marine Supply Stores

Antifouling paint was the sole antifouling agent sold in marine supply stores. Three different paint brands were sold, however, all contained the same active ingredient, cuprous oxide. The amount of cuprous oxide sold in the watershed was found to equate 40.58kg. Antifouling paints were purchased for application on both commercial vessels and personal watercrafts.

Boatyards

It was determined that three boatyards in the watershed applied a total of 531kg of cuprous oxide to boat hulls in the last year. As with marine supply stores, antifouling paints were the only antifouling agents applied.



Aquaculture

Data collected from the aquaculture industry indicated that no antifouling agents were used in aquaculture in the watershed in the last year. As for the treatment of sea lice, the current practice is to add a medication to the feed of the fish. Since a pesticide is defined as a product applied externally to combat pests, and this product is taken internally, it is classified as a drug rather than a pesticide. It should be noted that aquaculture in the watershed is not extensive; it consists of only two finfish operations.