



The end of Antifouling?

Can it possibly be? Fouling banished forever without any effort, environmental damage or great expense? Is this the 'sliced bread' of antifouling or just another absurd claim?

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KIT**

The system amounts to two copper electrodes, hung fore and aft on boats of up to 25m (82ft), dangling down to the level of the keel. Once plugged into a control unit powered by either 220v alternating or 12v direct current, a cloud of copper ions (in a concentration well below the 0.02 mg/m³ of agreed international environmental standard for seawater) hugs your hull preventing all fouling, before oxidising harmlessly in the water.

According to their website, this system means never having to haul out (to clean your hull, at least). Nor is there any need for high-pressure hoses or huge vats of elbow grease. It takes a couple of minutes to fit, requires no effort whatsoever and the electrodes last two to three maintenance-free years.

To cap it all, it can even be powered by a solar panel, which makes it greener than an Irish bar on St Patrick's Day. Is it saviour or snake oil? We'll find out and let you know as soon as we've tested this system.

Price: £1,630 (two new electrodes: £474).

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