

Test Boat Notes

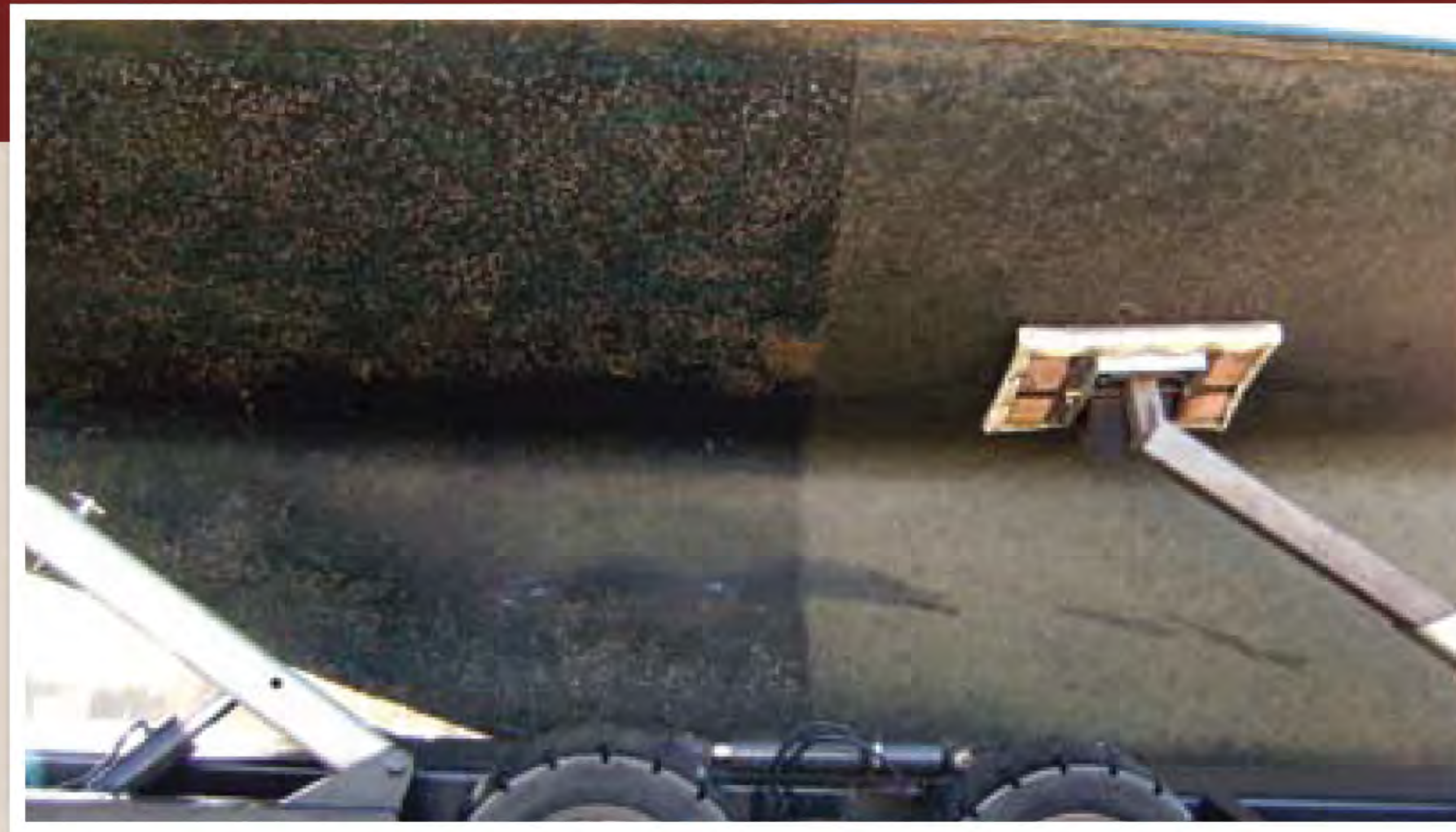
To get a better idea of how some of the better panel-tested antifouling paints do in actual use, *PS* applies a select number of paints to test boats and monitors the performance. Here is the update on results from the field.

FLEXDEL AQUAGUARD vs. PETTIT HYDROCOAT

These two water-based ablatives held off hard growth for about 15 months on the Chesapeake Bay. The boat, a Union 36 (right), rarely moved from its slip, presenting a significant challenge. The bottom was cleaned once during the period.

BLUE WATER KOLOR vs. INTERLUX MICRON 66

This was a bit of a mismatch since Blue Water Color is an aluminum-safe paint that uses cuprous thiocyanate instead of cuprous oxide, found in Micron 66. After 15 months on a 23-foot *PS* test power boat that saw regular use, the Micron 66 was clearly more potent, showing very little slime growth and only a six barnacles. The Kolor sections had more slime and several dozen barnacles along the waterline. Most of the barnacles came off during a pressure wash.



After 20 months in the water, both Flexdel Aquaguard (left) and Pettit Hydrocoat (right) showed significant growth at haulout. Hydrocoat had more slime but fewer barnacles.

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EP2000 vs. PETTIT VIVID FREE

These two paints, both billed as low-copper and aluminum-friendly, were applied to a 22-foot, davit-stored powerboat kept in the Florida Keys. After nine months of use, both paints were still repelling hard growth, but the Pettit Vivid Free was clearly softer, and wearing away at a faster rate. It became obvious that for boats that see a lot of bumps from trailering, the EP2000 or another harder paint is a better choice.