Claims

1. A fouling-resistant composition which comprises an elastomer and a component comprising sterol(s) and/or sterol derivative(s), wherein the component is selected from acylated lanolin, alkoxylated lanolin, lanolin oil, or a composition comprising at least 20 weight % of one or more sterol(s), at least 20 weight % of one or more C_1-C_{12} sterol ester(s), or at least 20 weight % of alkoxylated sterol(s), wherein weight % is the percentage of the sterol or sterol derivative to the total weight of the component.

2. The fouling-resistant composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more sterol ester(s) are one or more C_1-C_5 acylated sterol ester(s), for example one or more acetylated sterol ester(s).

3. The fouling-resistant composition of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the component comprises at least 50 weight % of one or more sterol(s), at least 50 weight % of one or more C_1-C_{12} sterol ester(s), or at least 50 weight % of alkoxylated sterol(s), wherein weight % is the percentage of the sterol or sterol derivative to the total weight of the component.

4. The fouling-resistant composition of Claim 1, wherein the acylated lanolin is C_1-C_{12} acylated lanolin, for example acetylated lanolin.

5. The fouling-resistant composition of any preceding claim, wherein the sterols and sterol derivatives include one or more of cholesterol, lanosterol, agnosterol, cycloartenol, campesterol, sitosterol, stigmasterol, amyrin and dihydrolanesterol and/or ester or alkoxylated derivatives thereof.

6. The fouling-resistant composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the weight ratio of the component to the elastomer is about 1-30%.

7. The fouling-resistant composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the elastomer is one or a mixture of organosiloxane polymer(s).

8. The fouling-resistant composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the elastomer is a polymer comprising a repeating unit of the general structure $-[SiR^1R^2-O]-$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, and a vinyl group.

9. The fouling-resistant composition of Claim 8 wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from methyl and phenyl, preferably wherein R^1 and R^2 are methyl.

10. A method for inhibiting fouling of a substrate in an aquatic environment by applying the fouling-resistant composition of any one of the preceding claims to a substrate and then locating the substrate in the aquatic environment.

11. The use of the fouling-resistant composition as defined in any one of Claims 1-9 for inhibiting fouling on a substrate in an aquatic environment.

12. A substrate coated with a fouling-resistant composition as defined in any of Claims 1-9.

Claims

1. A fouling-resistant composition which comprises an elastomer and a component selected from acylated lanolin, alkoxylated lanolin or lanolin oil.

2. The fouling-resistant composition of Claim 1, wherein the acylated lanolin is C_1-C_{12} acylated lanolin.

3. The fouling-resistant composition of Claim 1, wherein the acylated lanolin is acetylated lanolin.

4. The fouling-resistant composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the weight ratio of the component to the elastomer is about 1-30%.

5. The fouling-resistant composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the elastomer is one or a mixture of organosiloxane polymer(s).

6. The fouling-resistant composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the elastomer is a polymer comprising a repeating unit of the general structure –[SiR^1R^2-O]-, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, and a vinyl group.

7. The fouling-resistant composition of Claim 6 wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from methyl and phenyl, preferably wherein R^1 and R^2 are methyl.

8. A method for inhibiting fouling of a substrate in an aquatic environment by applying the fouling-resistant composition of any one of the preceding claims to a substrate and then locating the substrate in the aquatic environment.

9. The use of the fouling-resistant composition as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 7 for inhibiting fouling on a substrate in an aquatic environment.

10. A substrate coated with a fouling-resistant composition as defined in any of Claims 1 to7.