more preferably at least 61 mass%, of the entire content of the resin composition. When the content of polymer (A) is at least the lower limit of such a range, the relative amount of a solvent is less, thus reducing the VOC content in the antifouling coating composition when an antifouling agent is incorporated into the resin composition.

The upper limit of polymer (A) is determined according to the weight-average molecular weight of polymer (A), its glass transition temperature, presence of crosslinked structure or the like, and it is preferred to be 85 mass% or less, more preferably 75 mass% or less.

[0061]

<Solvent>

A solvent is not limited specifically as long as it dissolves the polymer (A). Examples are hydrocarbon-based solvents such as toluene and xylene; ketone-based solvents such as methyl isobutyl ketone; ester-based solvents such as n-butyl acetate, propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate and ethyl 3-ethoxy propionate; and the like. They may be used alone or in combination thereof.

The lower limit of a solvent is determined according to the weight-average molecular weight of polymer (A), its glass transition temperature, presence of crosslinked structure or the like, and is preferred to be at least 15 mass%, more preferably at least 25 mass%.

[0062]

<Other Components>

The resin composition related to the present invention may further include components other than a polymer (A).

Examples of other components are the same as those in the later-described antifouling coating composition.

The content of other components is preferred to be 200 mass% or less of polymer (A), and the content may even be zero mass%.

[0092]

Ratios (mol%) in tables indicate the following.

(total molar number of the monomer in formula (31), (32), (33)) / (total molar number of structural units having the structure represented by formula (1), (2), (3))

The abbreviations in Tables 1 and 2 refer to those listed below.

MMA: methyl methacrylate

EA: ethyl acrylate

2-MTA: 2-methoxyethyl acrylate

2-MTMA: 2-methoxyethyl methacrylate

MAA: methacrylic acid

AIBN: 2, 2'-azobis-isobutyronitrile

AMBN: 2,2'-azobis-2-methylbutyronitrile

[0093]

[Examples 1 to 19, Comparative Examples 1 to 2]

Resin compositions B-1 to B-19, antifouling agents and the like were mixed to have the ratios specified in Tables 3 and 4 using a high-speed disperser. Accordingly, antifouling coating compositions were obtained respectively.

[0094]

Evaluation results of antifouling coating compositions are shown in Tables 3 and 4.