

BIOFOULING PROTECTION**ABSTRACT**

We describe a device for reducing biofouling on a surface at least partially submerged in an aqueous environment, the device comprising: a structure comprising at least one flexible layer which is or becomes water permeable during use and which is formed of at least one of mesh, lattice, fenestration, or holes that enable fluid flow therethrough, the structure substantially surrounding at least a portion of a periphery of the surface in the aqueous environment, the structure having an upper end and a lower end which extends downward into the aqueous environment to a first depth; the structure defining at least one opening that forms one or more paths in the aqueous environment around the structure leading toward the surface such that fluid from the aqueous environment is able to flow around the structure, through the at least one opening, and toward the surface without having to pass through the at least one of mesh, lattice, fenestration, or holes; in which the at least one flexible layer comprises a 3-dimensional flexible material.

No Figure to Accompany Abstract