CLAIMS

1. A self-polishing and/or anti-fouling coating composition comprising a binder comprising an oligomer or polymer composition, formed from at least 50% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid.

2. A coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the number of carbon atoms in the vinyl ester of versatic acid is 11, thus being a vinyl ester of a versatic acid having 9 carbon atoms.

3. A coating composition according to either of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the balance of the monomers required to prepare the polymer is selected from one or more of the following monomers: alkyl acrylate; alkyl (alk)acrylate; $R^1{}_3$silyl acrylate, where each R^1 group is independently selected from hydrogen or any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl or aryl group ; $R^2{}_3$silyl (alk)acrylate where each R^2 group is independently selected from hydrogen or any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl or aryl group; a monomer having the general formula **II**:

$$(R^3)_{4-m}Si(OR^4)_m \qquad \textbf{II}$$

where each R^3 is independently selected from hydrogen or any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl or aryl group, and where each R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen or any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl, aryl, and m = 1 to 4.

4. A coating composition according to claim 3, wherein the comonomers are selected from methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, butyl acrylate and methyl(meth)acrylate.

5. A coating composition according to claim 3, wherein the co-monomers are selected from one or more vinyl silane monomer, wherein, according to Formula II, at least one R^3 group comprises a vinyl group, and wherein m=1 to 3; or one or more methacryl silane monomer, wherein, according to Formula II, at least one R^3 group comprises a methacrylate group, and wherein m=1 to 3.

6. A coating composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the polymer composition comprises at least about 60% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid, more preferably at least about 70% by weight, yet more preferably at least 80% by weight, and yet more preferably at least about 90% by weight.

7. A coating composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the polymer composition comprises at least about 95% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid.

8. A method of forming a binder for a for a self polishing and/or anti fouling coating composition, the method comprising polymerizing a monomer mixture comprising at least 50% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid.

9. A coating composition according to any of claims 1 - 7, wherein the coating composition is a marine coating composition.

10. Use of an oligomer or polymer composition, formed from at least 50% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid as a binder in a self polishing and/or anti fouling coating composition.

11. Use of a binder comprising an oligomer or polymer composition, formed from at least 50% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid in a marine self polishing antifouling coating.

12. A coating composition, the coating composition comprising:

i) a carboxylic acid;

ii) at least one metal oxide compound; and

iii) one or more binder, the binder comprising comprising an oligomer or polymer composition, formed from at least 50% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid.

13. A coating composition, the coating composition comprising:

i) a carboxylic acid;

ii) at least one metal oxide compound;

iii) a dehydrating agent; and

iv) one or more binder, the binder comprising comprising an oligomer or polymer composition, formed from at least 50% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid;

characterised in that, in the production of the coating composition, the dehydrating agent iii) is contacted with either of component i) or ii), prior to the addition of the other of component i) or ii).

14. A method of forming a coating composition, the coating composition comprising:

i) a carboxylic acid;

ii) at least one metal oxide compound;

iii) a dehydrating agent; and

iv) one or more binder, the binder comprising comprising an oligomer or polymer composition, formed from at least 50% by weight of monomer units of a vinyl ester of versatic acid;

the method comprising contacting the dehydrating agent iii) with either of component i) or ii), prior to the addition of the other of component i) or ii).