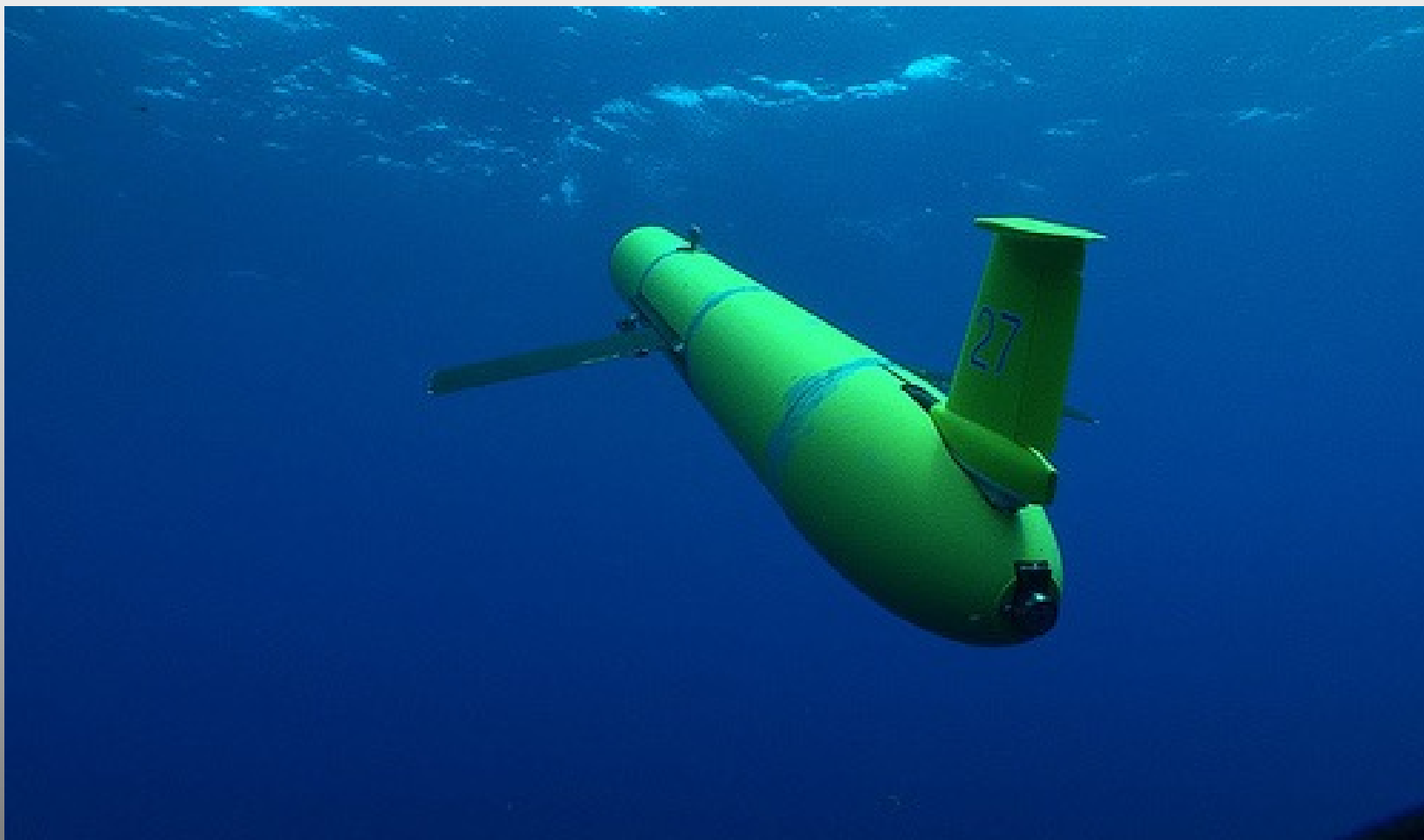


Biofouling Considerations and Solutions for Undersea Instruments and Platforms

UNOLS RVTEC Meeting



Ocean Innovations Company Overview

- **Manage the west coast division of ClearSignal biofouling control coating.**
- **Supply specialized oceanographic equipment for research, commercial, and defense applications.**
- **Quick turnaround custom cable assemblies, junction boxes, and mechanical support.**
- **Subsea cameras, lighting, and pressure relief.**
- **Glass instrumentation and floatation spheres.**
- **Represent leading manufacturers such as SubConn, DeepSea, Nautilus Marine, Novatech, SRS Fusion, Oceanbotix, and many more**



Severn Marine Technologies Company Overview

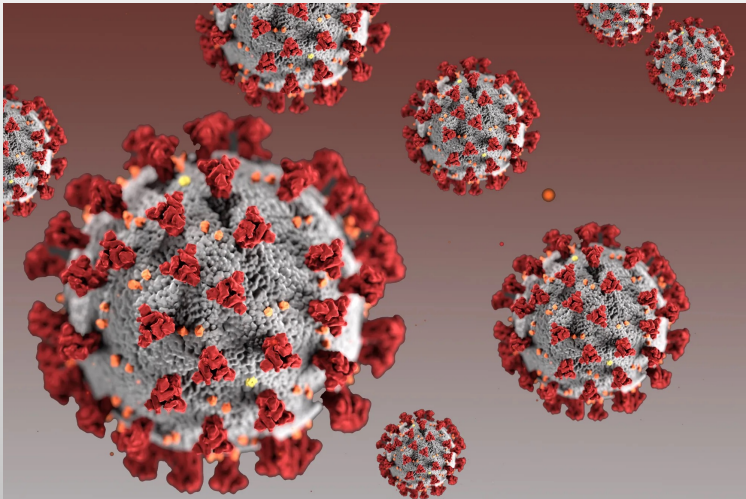
- **Supported By Ocean Innovations in San Diego and other Worldwide Representatives**
- **Research, Development and Marketing non-toxic biofouling resistant materials since 1997**
- **Focus on: Seismic, Oil/Gas Energy, Marine instruments**
- **Coating Locations: Houston, San Diego, Norway, Denmark, Australia, UK**



Topics to Discuss

- 1. Biofouling Protection – General Case**
- 2. Biofouling Protection – Instrument Case**
- 3. Optical Devices**
- 4. Biofouling Protection – Best Practices**

In the Beginning and can we Outsmart a Barnacle?



Anatomy of a Barnacle



The Problem



The Problem



The Problem



The Problem



The Problem



The Problem



Instrument Considerations for 2022 and Beyond

With Improved Batteries - Instruments

With Improved Memory – Instruments

Long Term Considerations for Deployments – all Devices

Toxicity/HSE Considerations – all Devices

Biofouling is Becoming a Dominating Limitation.

Traditional Solution- Biocide Paint



Advanced Solution – Foul Release



Copper Cladding



Case History – TBT Biocide



Topography (Sharklet)

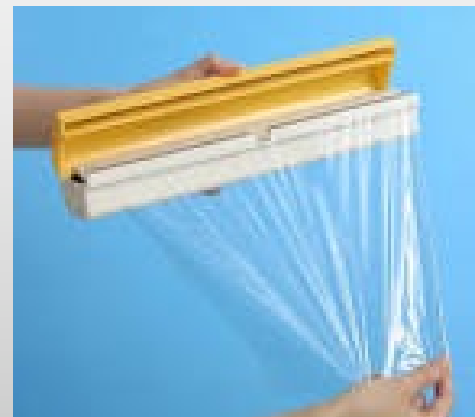


Home Remedies

Tape



Wraps



Grease



Grease Additives



General Biofouling Control Choices = Foul Release or Biocide



Operational and Performance Considerations Often Favor Foul Release:

Long Duration Missions and Long Term Efficacy

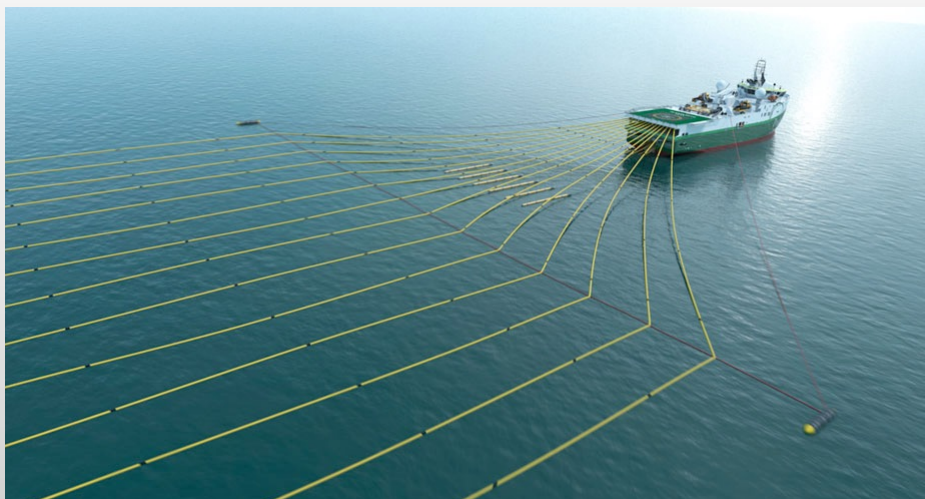
Possible Optical Transparency Requirements

Field Turnaround

HSE – No Toxicity

Foul Release Use Today

ClearSignal (Severn Marine Technologies)



Intersleek (International Paint Co.)

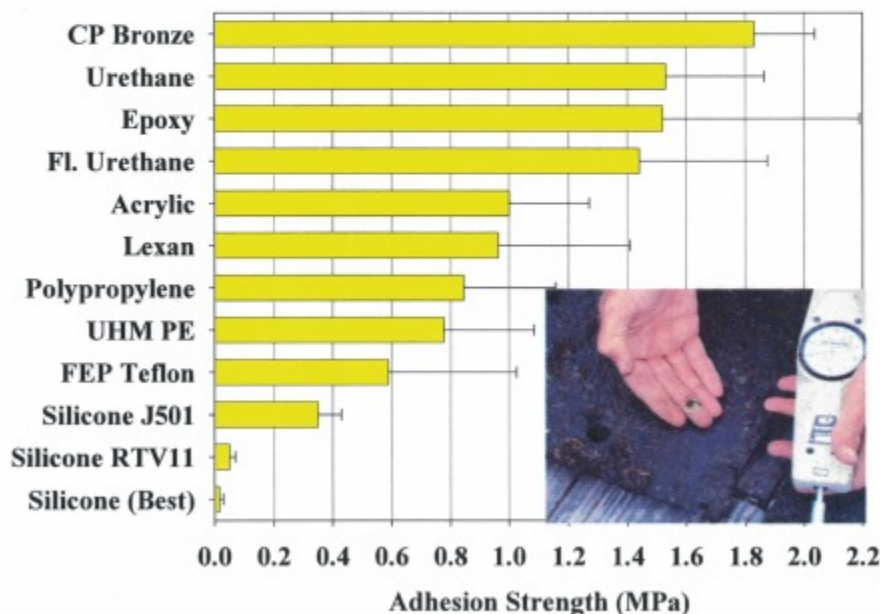




Barnacle Adhesion Method

ASTM D5618-94

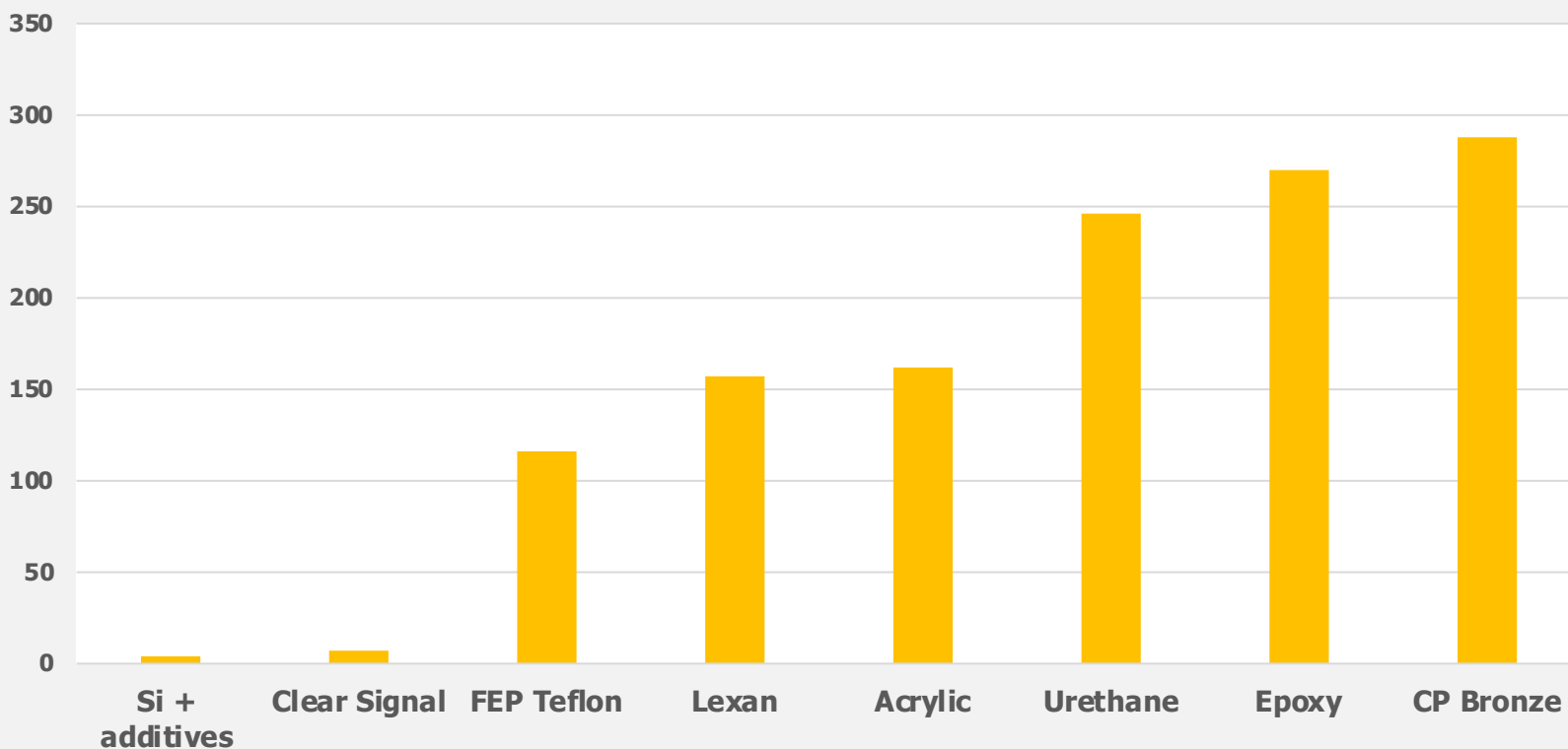
To measure shear force required to remove hard fouling



- A shear force is applied to the base of the organism
- The force for removal is measured
- The base area of organism is measured by a scanner
- The shear strength = $\text{force} / \text{base area}$

Barnacle Adhesion Method ASTM D-5618-94

Water Jet Shear Required to Remove Fouling from Substrate (PSI)



All Data From a 2015 Independent Study Performed by the Florida Institute of Technology Utilizing ASTM D-5618-94 Protocol

Coating Robustness Failure Containment from Anchor Chain



Enhanced Wave Measuring Buoy Performance through the use of ClearSignal 2 years Pacific

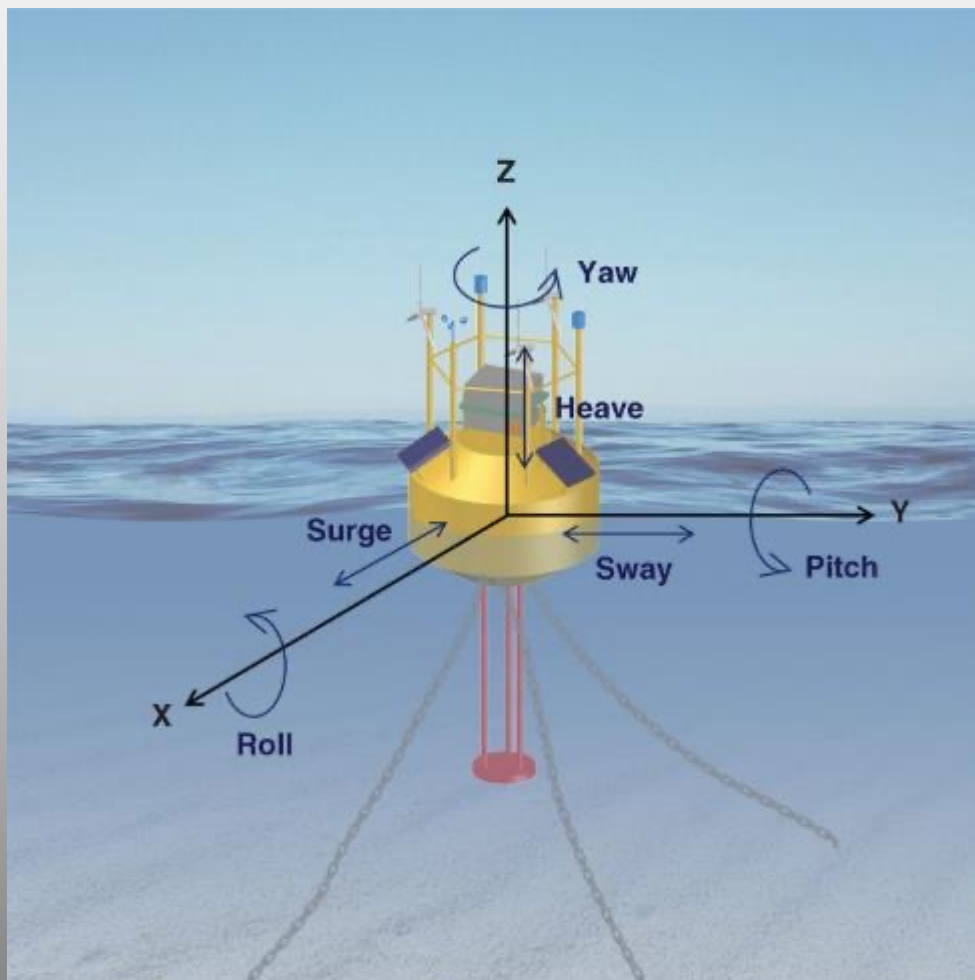


ClearSignal Coated



Copper Coated

Heave Provides Self Cleaning to Foul Release Coatings



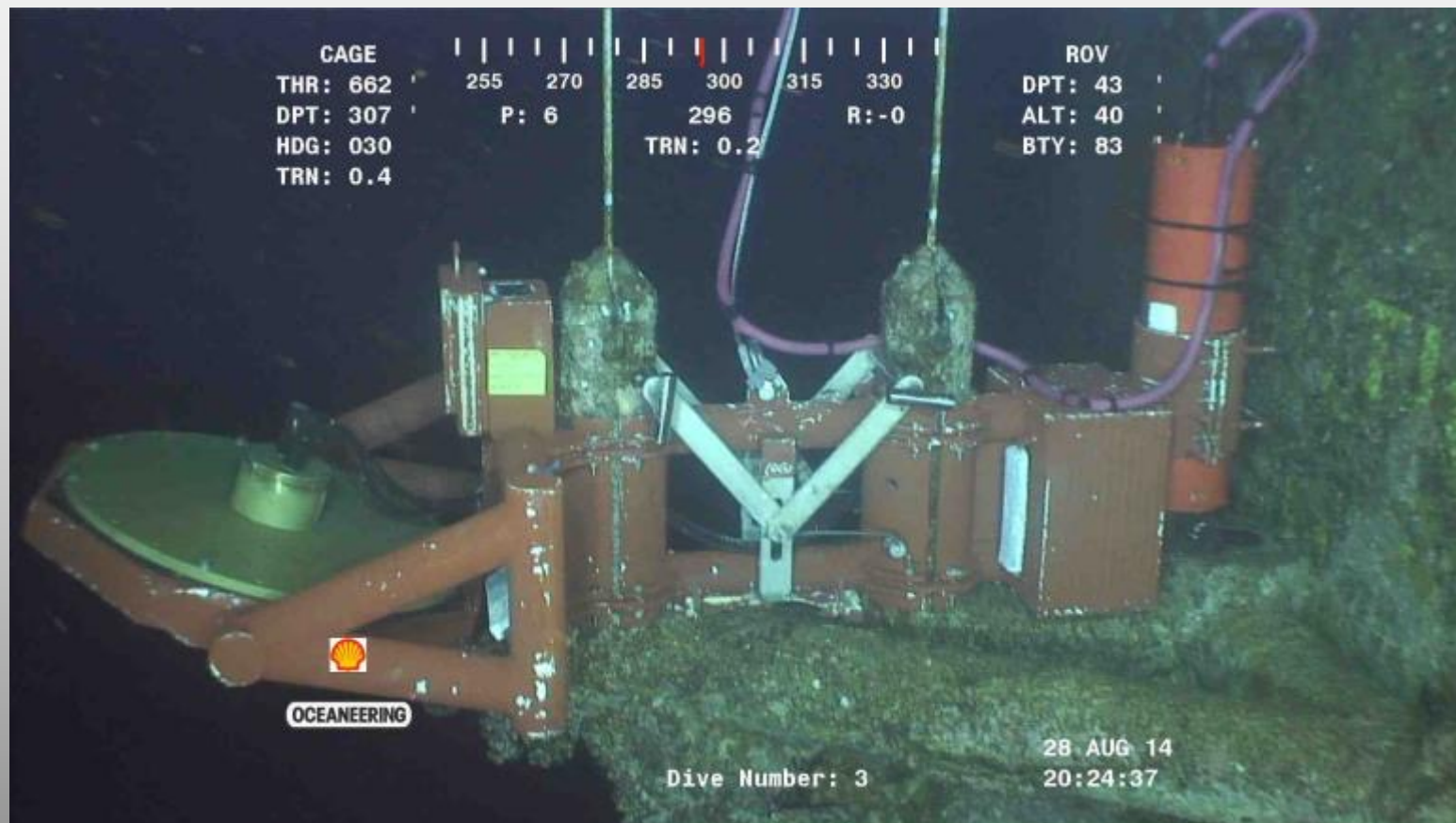
Case History – ClearSignal and Control



Case History (Foul Release - ClearSignal)



Case History-(Foul Release - ClearSignal)



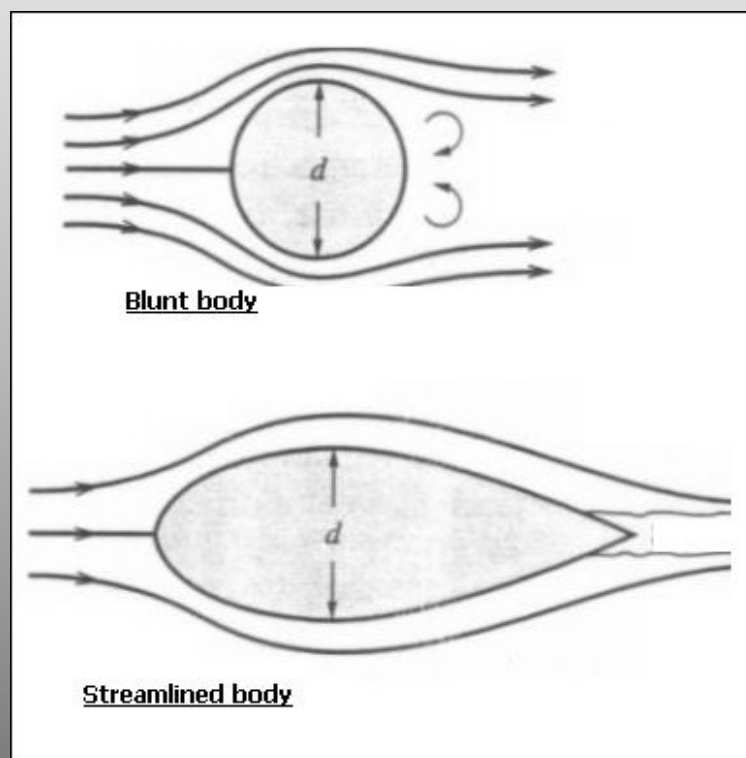
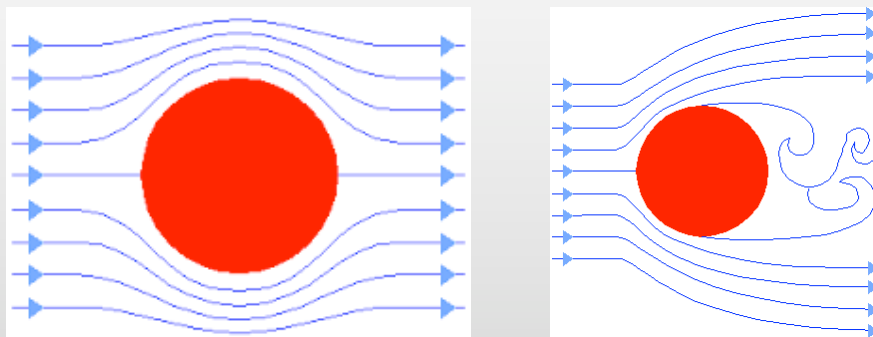
Case History - (Foul Release - ClearSignal)



Summary Review

- **Foul Release Coatings offer Long Term Protection**
- **Biofouling and its Prevention is an Adhesion Issue**
- **Coating Robustness and Adhesion to the Substrate are Critical Factors**
- **Flow Separation Contributes to Biofouling Settlement**
- **Buoys in Heave Provide Self Cleaning for Foul Release Coatings**

Streamlining



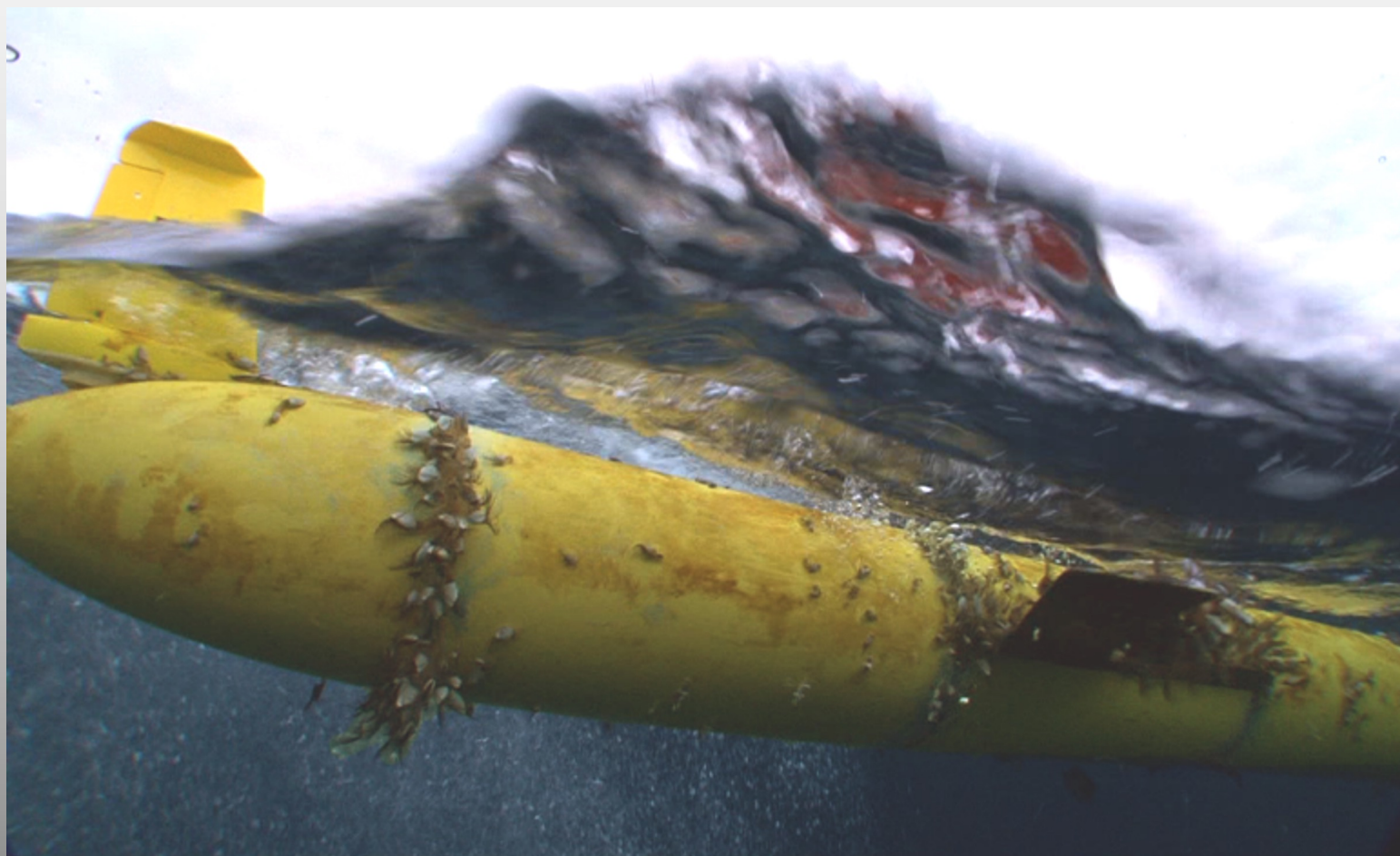
Streamlining



Streamlining



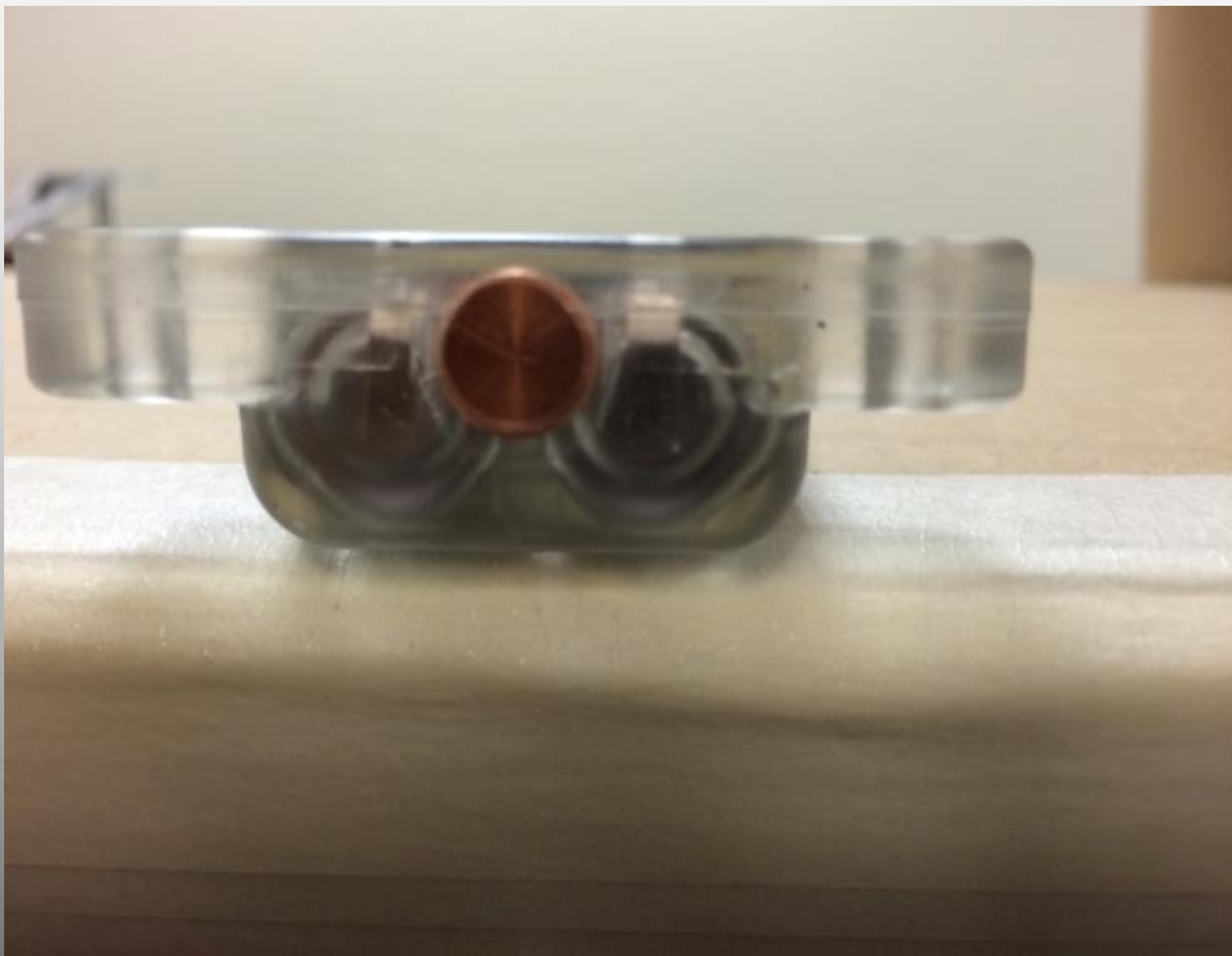
Streamlining



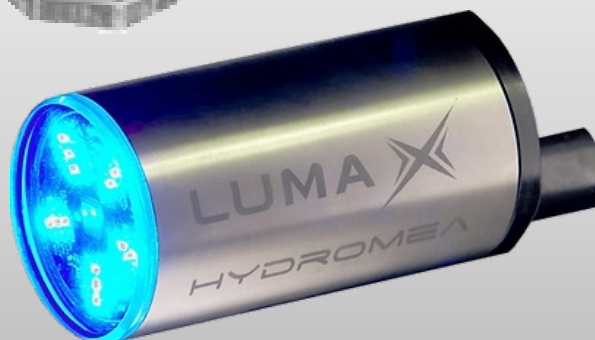
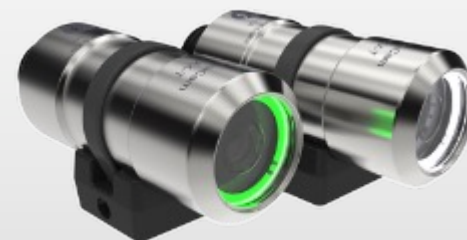
Streamlining



Streamlining



Protection of Optical Devices



UV(AML System)



Wiper System



Case History - Wiper



Liquid Immersion (Probe Guard)











SMT Solution



May 21, 2025
(42 days of immersion)

Legend: Uncoated Coated Luminus Devices OSRAM Am Opto

Unit #1	Unit #2	Unit #3	Unit #4
			
			

Note: Unit #2 began to fail at 21 days of immersion (3 weeks). LEDs were not working.

Conclusions

- **Foul Release for Long Term Deployments (adhesion and durability are key)**
- **Integrated Solutions – (especially for specialized sensor areas)**
- **Implement Streamlining for Low Flow Separation**
- **Best Practices Yield Large Results - Reductions of maintenance by 3X to 10X**
- **Best Practice Guideline Development for Science is Recommended**

Contact Info

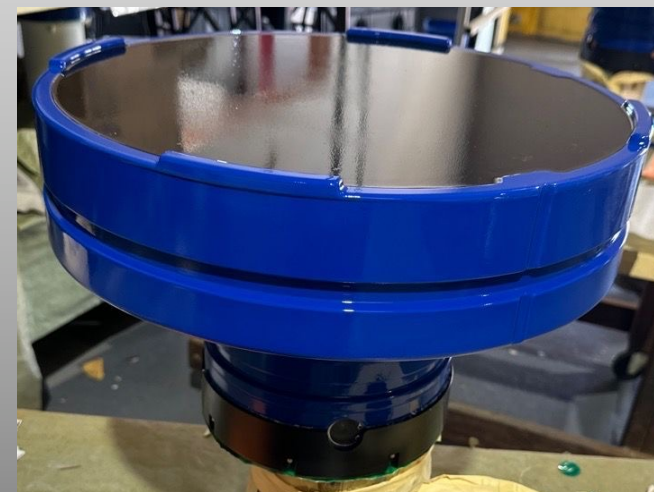
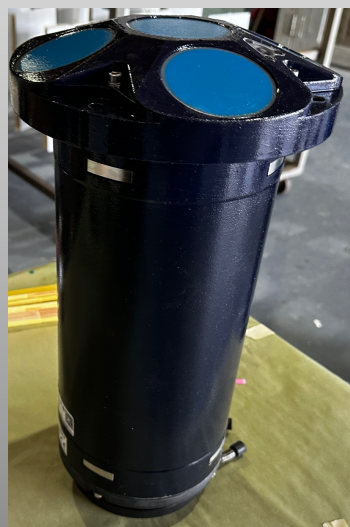
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ClearSignal Coating for CDIP Program



ClearSignal Coating for Various ADCP



Biofouling Solutions in Action



- Shot from a Deepsea HD MultiSeacam mounted to Scripps Pier
- housing coated with ClearSignal
- pulsed UV light for added biofoul control

[Scripps Pier Live Cam | Coastal Ocean Observing Lab](#)