

## Long-term stability of PEG-based antifouling surfaces in seawater - DTU Orbit (09/11/2017)

### Long-term stability of PEG-based antifouling surfaces in seawater

Poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) is a hydrophilic polymer that has been extensively used in the biomedical and marine environment due to its antifouling properties. In the biomedical field, PEG has been successfully used to functionalize surfaces due to its resistance to cell and nonspecific protein adsorption. However, the long-term stability of PEG has limited its use in some areas. In the shipping industry, there is a great need for long-term solutions to keep the hulls of the ships fouling-free. The long-term stability of PEG in polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) fouling-release coatings is studied here, in both accelerated laboratory tests and real seawater conditions. This article shows how PEG-based copolymers, which have been exposed to fouling-release coatings to real-life seawater conditions, are isolated and compared to those exposed to accelerated laboratory testing with successful results. The influence of the chemistry of the PEG compounds, the chosen laboratory degrading agents, and the possible degradation pathways and products are discussed.

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