

Marine Coatings - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2026 - 2031)

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Report description:

Marine Coatings Market Analysis

Marine Coatings Market size in 2026 is estimated at 1.08 billion liters, growing from 2025 value of 1.04 billion liters with 2031 projections showing 1.34 billion liters, growing at 4.28% CAGR over 2026-2031. Performance-demanding regulations from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), notably the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) and Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII), have elevated coatings from a maintenance cost to a frontline solution for cutting fuel bills and carbon emissions. Asia Pacific commands the lion's share of global activity, supplying 72.11% of all marine-grade coatings in 2024, thanks to China's unrivalled 69% grip on new-build orders, while South Korea's share lingers below 20%. Carnival Corporation's record USD 25 billion revenue in 2024 and the delivery schedule of 16 new oceangoing cruise vessels in 2025 signal a structural rebound that is translating into premium coating demand. Across every decision point-type, resin, technology, and application-the market is pivoting toward solutions that promise measurable fuel savings, lower carbon intensity scores, and longer service intervals, underlying the central theme that value now lies in life-cycle economics instead of ticket price.

Global Marine Coatings Market Trends and Insights

Increase in Production of Leisure Boats & Cruise Ships

Leisure cruising is firmly back in growth mode, with the Cruise Lines International Association projecting 40 million passengers by 2027, up from the 31.7 million carried in 2024. Larger itineraries and longer voyages are leading operators to specify premium

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silicone or hybrid topcoats that deliver superior gloss retention and longer dry-dock intervals. China's emergence as a cruise-ship builder-its second domestic hull is now in assembly-adds fresh capacity yet also widens the addressable demand for high-end exterior paints. LNG propulsion on eight of the 16 cruise vessels scheduled for 2025 requires cryogenic-ready tank coatings and fuel-line barriers that can handle -163 C during bunker operations. In the recreational boating domain, sustained household income and flexible remote-work models underpin long-run demand for premium marine finishes. Together, these trends lift average selling prices and margins versus commercial cargo segments, reinforcing the sector's positive 1.2 percentage-point lift on the marine coatings market CAGR.

Growing Ship-Repair & Dry-Docking Volumes

Deferred maintenance from the Red Sea crisis has crowded Asian yards, pushing time-charter operators to book slots up to a year in advance. The backlog is now translating into an up-cycle in hull cleaning and repainting, especially on Panamax and Suezmax tonnage that face stricter CII scoring. Damen Shiprepair Rotterdam's showcase projects illustrate the shift: owners are retrofitting silicon-based low-friction coatings that promise 5-6% fuel savings over conventional ablative antifoulings. Academic modelling shows that optimal cleaning cycles can shave USD 10,402-26,685 off annual bunker bills per vessel, reinforcing payback logic. Demand is strongest in Asia Pacific, home to the world's oldest commercial fleet mix, but Europe and North America are seeing similar spikes as EU-ETS charges loom. As a result, repair-driven consumption is supplying a +0.9 percentage-point lift to overall growth.

Stringent VOC & Biocide Regulations

The IMO cybutryne prohibition, effective January 2023, removed a mainstay antifouling biocide overnight, forcing formulators into accelerated redesign cycles. Europe's anti-dumping duties on Chinese titanium dioxide from 2024 have hiked pigment costs by double digits, sparking opposition from the regional paint federation and smaller coating makers that lack hedging scale. Washington State's postponement of its copper ban illustrates the regulatory tightrope between environmental ambition and technical feasibility, yet continued studies through 2029 signal that stricter caps are only deferred, not cancelled. Industry response is trending toward waterborne and silicone systems, but these carry higher raw-material and validation costs. Smaller manufacturers without global R&D centers struggle to fund the necessary toxicology benchmarks, trimming 0.8 percentage points off forecast growth for the marine coatings market.

Other drivers and restraints analyzed in the detailed report include:

Stricter IMO EEXI & CII Fuel-Efficiency Mandates
Surge in Offshore Renewable Installations Requiring Heavy-Duty Coatings
Volatile Epoxy & Titanium-Oxide Prices

For complete list of drivers and restraints, kindly check the Table Of Contents.

Segment Analysis

Anti-fouling systems led the marine coatings market size by generating 46.75% of 2025 demand, a testament to their direct impact on hull smoothness, bunker consumption, and CII scoring. Foul-release chemistries are projected to climb at a 4.52% CAGR to 2031, propelled by copper-free mandates and rising charter-party clauses that prioritise green credentials.

Despite their scale, self-polishing anti-foulings face a growth ceiling due to regulatory scrutiny on biocide run-off. In contrast, silicone and fluoropolymer foul-release options offer owners higher-upfront costs but lower lifetime emissions and longer maintenance windows, reinforcing a steady migration path within the marine coatings market. Continued university-industry consortia on self-healing additives point to the next wave of innovation, where micro-capsules release corrosion inhibitors or

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polymerise to fill scratches, extending docking cycles even further.

Alkyds accounted for 54.10% of litres shipped in 2025, reflecting decades-long optimisation around cost, sprayability, and global availability. That dominance, however, is now being tested by polyurethane, which is forecast to expand at 4.33% CAGR through 2031 as regulations favour tougher, low-film-thickness linings suited to LNG and hydrogen tanks.

Polyurethane's rise is aided by advances in waterborne two-component systems that comply with VOC caps without sacrificing gloss or abrasion resistance, helping them win specifications on cruise superstructure and topside areas. Parallel research on dynamic disulfide exchange reactions is delivering self-healing layers capable of restoring micro-cracks at ambient temperature, an attribute that could reduce maintenance hours aboard navy vessels. These developments ensure that alkyds will cede share incrementally even as they retain cost-sensitive workboat niches within the marine coatings market.

The Marine Coatings Market Report is Segmented by Type (Anti-Corrosion, Antifouling, Foul Release, Moisture Cure), Resin (Epoxy, Polyurethane, Acrylic, Alkyd, Other), Technology (Water-Borne, Solvent-Borne, UV-Cured, Powder), Application (Marine OEM, Marine Aftermarket), and Geography (Asia Pacific, North America, Europe, South America, Middle East & Africa). The Market Forecasts are Provided in Terms of Volume (Liters).

Geography Analysis

Asia Pacific's 71.60% share underscores the region's role as the heartbeat of global shipbuilding. China alone holds a 69% slice of pending vessel orders, a scale that guarantees baseline coating volumes whatever the freight cycle does. The regional CAGR of 4.58% to 2031 is propelled by expanding cruise ship fabrication, rising coastal trade, and early-stage floating wind projects off the coasts of Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Japan's USD 6.9 billion shot-in-the-arm for domestic yards, earmarked to service US naval tonnage, adds another high-specification outlet for advanced primers and hull systems.

Europe remains the bellwether for regulatory stringency, and its share of premium yacht, ferry, and offshore infrastructure keeps coatings demand both diverse and technology intensive. The EU's decision to fold vessels over 5,000 GT into its Emissions Trading System from January 2025 incentivises owners to pick low-drag, low-solvent alternatives that can shave carbon exposure costs. Floating wind's 264 GW global target envisions a substantial portion anchored off Scottish, Norwegian and Iberian coasts, requiring splash-zone packages with 25-year warranties that only top-tier suppliers can deliver.

List of Companies Covered in this Report:

AkzoNobel N.V. Arkema S.A. (Bostik Yacht Coatings) Axalta Coating Systems BASF SE BOERO BARTOLOMEO S.p.A. Carboline Company Chugoku Marine Paints Ltd. Engineered Marine Coatings LLC Hempel A/S Jotun Kansai Paint Marine Co., Ltd. KCC Corporation MCU Coating International Nippon Paint Marine Coatings Co. Ltd. Pettit Marine Paints PPG Industries Inc. RPM International Inc. Sika AG The Sherwin-Williams Company

Additional Benefits:

- The market estimate (ME) sheet in Excel format
- 3 months of analyst support

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