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Inventor(s)	Cosentino; Louis Ciro et al.

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### Self-treating electrolytic biocide generating system with recirculation

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#### Abstract

The present disclosure relates to a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft. The water system is configured to draw water from a body of water on which the watercraft is supported. The biocide generating system includes an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which the water of the water system flows. The water system is configured such that biocide treated water also flows to one or more components of the water system that are positioned upstream of the electrode arrangement.

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## Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) The application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/728,326, filed Apr. 25, 2022, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,866,351, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/787,379, filed Feb. 11, 2020, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,345,621, issued May 31, 2022, which application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/803,955, filed Feb. 11, 2019, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/831,518, filed Apr. 9, 2019, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/875,876, filed Jul. 18, 2019, the disclosures of each of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

### TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure relates generally to biocide generating systems for reducing or eliminating biofouling within water systems. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to an anti-biofouling system for treating the water of an on-board water system of a watercraft.

### BACKGROUND

(2) Watercraft, particularly marine watercraft, often include on-board water systems which use water drawn from the bodies of water on which the watercraft are buoyantly supported. A prevalent type of on-board water system is configured to pass drawn water through a heat exchanger used to cool refrigerant associated with air conditioning systems, chillers, and the like. Other on-board water systems include potable water systems, sanitation systems, propulsion systems, engine cooling systems, bait-well filling systems and systems corresponding to ancillary equipment. Biofouling caused by bio-growth (e.g., marine growth) can result in the clogging of on-board water systems, and the inefficient operation, overheating, and malfunction of equipment dependent upon the water systems thereby leading to costly downtime and expensive repair. Commonly, the issue of bio-growth within on-board water systems is addressed by periodic (e.g., semi-annual) acid cleaning of the water systems. Acid cleaning is expensive, time consuming, and involves the use of harsh and hazardous chemicals. Improvements in this area are needed.

(3) The contents of International Patent Application No. PCT/US2018/054200 filed Oct. 3, 2018 are hereby fully incorporated by reference in their entirety.

### SUMMARY

(4) One aspect of the present disclosure relates to a self-treating biocide generating system of an on-board water system of a watercraft. The biocide generating system functions to inhibit biofouling within the on-board water system such that related equipment (e.g., a heat exchanger) of the watercraft can be operated at peak performance with minimal to no downtime. The biocide generating system is configured such that each component of the on-board water system, including each component of the biocide generating system, that is exposed to water during normal operation of the on-board water system is also periodically treated with biocide generated by the biocide generating system. In this manner, the biocide generating system not only treats the water-reliant components that are downstream of the biocide generating system (e.g., a heat exchanger used to cool refrigerant associated with air conditioning systems, chillers, and the like, a sanitation system, a propulsion system, an engine cooling system, etc.), but also components of the onboard water system that may be positioned upstream of the biocide generating system, such as a water intake or port, a strainer that strains water being drawn into the onboard water system, etc.

(5) In certain examples, the biocide generating system can include at least one or at least two electrolytic modules for providing the in situ generation of biocide within the water passing through the on-board water system. In certain examples, the biocide generating system can be continuously operated or intermittently operated. In certain examples, a biocide generating system in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure eliminates the need for acid cleaning of



the on-board water system, or substantially reduces the frequency that acid cleaning of the on-board water system is required.

(6) In certain examples, the biocide generating system is configured to operate in multiple modes. In a cleaning or purging mode, the biocide generating system is used to eliminate organisms (e.g., marine growth such as mollusks, barnacles, etc.) already present in the on-board water system, including the biocide generating system. In a maintenance mode, the biocide generating system operates to flush biocide through the on-board water system to prevent or reduce future marine growth. In some examples, the concentration of biocide within the on-board water system is higher during the purging mode than it is during the maintenance mode. For example, if the biocide generating system includes more than one electrolytic module, more of the modules can be active during the cleaning mode than during the maintenance mode to thereby generate a greater amount of biocide to increase the concentration of biocide in the water flowing through the on-board water system. Alternatively, more current can be supplied to the electrode arrangement during the cleaning mode than in maintenance mode to generate a higher concentration of biocide in purging mode. In some examples, a watercraft is constructed with a biocide generating system according to the present disclosure integrated therein. In other examples, a watercraft is retrofitted with a biocide generating system in accordance with the present disclosure. Particularly in the case of a retrofitted watercraft, it can be advantageous to initially operate the biocide generating system in a cleaning mode to purge biological buildup in the on-board water system that developed before installation of the biocide generating system. Thereafter, the biocide generating system can be operated in maintenance mode to inhibit further biofouling of the on-board water system.

(7) Operating the biocide generating system in purging mode can be particularly advantageous when a watercraft that has already spent time in the water is retrofitted with the biocide generating system. In these situations, biomaterial in the on board water system that already accumulated prior to the installation of the biocide generating system is killed by the biocide, releasing the biomaterial debris (e.g., barnacles, shells) into the flow stream of the onboard water system. The released, and therefore mobile, debris can clog, damage or cause faults or malfunctions in components of the onboard water system. Stray mobile debris can likewise cause similar problems even when the system is not in purging mode, for example, when the system is running in maintenance mode.

(8) For example, a flow meter positioned to detect flow out of the biocide generating system can become clogged or damaged by such debris, resulting in false flow readings and inappropriate corrective measures being taken. In some examples, a secondary or supplemental strainer is positioned at or near the flow output of the biocide generating system to collect such debris and help to reduce damage that may otherwise be caused by such debris. In some examples, the secondary strainer is installable in and removable from (e.g., to discard collected debris) the biocide generator without dismantling plumbing (e.g., pipes, valves) or other components of the on board water system. For example, a canister housing the biocide generator is simply opened and the secondary strainer is installed in or removed from (permanently or temporarily) the outlet of the biocide generating system. Once installed, the biocide generating system can be, e.g., operated in purging mode to remove any pre-existing biofouling in the onboard water system of the retrofitted watercraft. Once purging mode is complete, optionally the secondary strainer is removed to remove the collected debris from the on-board water system. The secondary strainer can then be returned to the biocide generating system for filtering during maintenance mode and/or or further subsequent purging mode.

(9) An on-board water system (or simply “water system”) in accordance with the present disclosure is configured to draw water from a body of water (also referred to herein as a “water source”) on which the watercraft is buoyantly supported. In some examples the water source contains saltwater and the biocide generating system uses the saltwater (e.g., seawater, brackish water) to generate biocide via electrolysis, in which case the on-board water system is installed on a seaworthy watercraft and the water source supplies salt water (e.g., seawater) to the on-board water system. In

at least some of these examples, the biocide generated by the biocide generating system is or at least partially consists of chlorine. In other examples, the biocide generating system uses water from fresh water sources (e.g., lakes, rivers) to generate biocide via electrolysis.

(10) The biocide generating system includes an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which the water from the water source flows. The biocide generating system also includes a flow sensor for sensing a rate of water flow out of the electrolytic cell and a control system that interfaces with the electrode arrangement. An example flow sensor can include a flow meter such as a hall-effect flow sensor (e.g., an electronic paddle flow meter). The control system includes an electrical power circuit for establishing a flow of electrical current between first and second electrodes of the electrode arrangement to generate a biocide in the water which flows through the electrolytic cell. The control system also includes a gas sensing circuit for detecting when gas collects in the electrolytic cell. In some examples, the control system varies a magnitude of the electrical current established between electrodes of the electrode arrangement in direct relation to the rate of water flow sensed by the flow sensor. For example, a processor can increase the constant electrical current with an increase in the water flow rate and decrease the constant electrical current with a decrease in the water flow rate so as to maintain a constant biocide concentration (or at least a biocide concentration within a target range) in the water flowing along the flow path.

(11) The control system can be configured to terminate the generation of biocide when the collection of gas is detected. If any of one or more flow monitoring means provides an indication that no flow is occurring within the system, the control system can disable the electrolytic cell. For example, if the flow sensor provides a no-flow indication to the control unit or the gas sensing system provides an indication to the control unit that gas is collecting at the electrolytic cell, the control unit will disable the electrolytic cell. In addition, the control system can include one or more sensors, such as temperature sensors and/or flow sensors, and its/their output(s) used by the control system to actively control the amount of biocide being produced.

(12) In some examples, the control system also is adapted to determine when water is not flowing through the water system, and to terminate the generation of biocide when it has been determined that water is not flowing through the water system. As mentioned, the control system can determine whether water is flowing through the water system by various means such as sensors (e.g., gas collection sensors, flow sensors, etc.) or by monitoring the operational status (e.g., on or off) of the system pump or pumps or by one or more flow sensors. When the control system determines that water is no longer flowing through the water system, the control system preferably terminates the generation of biocide by terminating power to the electrode arrangement. The control system can terminate the generation of biocide immediately after it has been established that water is no longer flowing through the water system. Alternatively, the control system can allow the system to continue to generate biocide for a predetermined time after water flow has ceased and then terminate the generation of biocide after the predetermined time has expired.

(13) One or more flow sensors or pressure sensors can be positioned within the flow path to detect flow at different locations along the flow path. In some examples, one or more flow sensors is/are configured to provide a binary output, e.g., that flow either is or is not detected. In some examples, a flow sensor that is a flow meter is provided, which provides a metered output, e.g., an amount of flow detected. In some examples, a flow meter is positioned at or around the flow output of the biocide generating system, to detect and provide to the control system metered flow data out of the biocide generating system. This data can be used to ascertain whether sufficient biocide is being supplied to the onboard water system, the associated pump, water inputs and outputs (e.g., through-hull fittings), primary strainer, etc.

(14) In accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through at

least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a direction of flow when water is being drawn through the first port into the water system, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows; a strainer through which water drawn through the first port flows, the strainer being positioned upstream of the electrode arrangement: and a recirculation conduit having a first end positioned downstream of the electrode arrangement and a second end positioned to feed water containing biocide to the strainer. In some examples, the second end of the recirculation conduit is positioned at the strainer. In some examples, the second end of the recirculation conduit is positioned upstream of the strainer.

(15) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through at least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a direction of flow when water is being drawn through the first port into the water system, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows: and a recirculation conduit having a first end positioned downstream of the electrode arrangement and a second end positioned proximate the first port such that the recirculation conduit is configured to discharge water containing biocide through the first port.

(16) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through at least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a direction of flow when water is being drawn through the first port into the water system, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows: a strainer through which water drawn through the first port flows, the strainer being positioned upstream of the electrode arrangement: and a recirculation conduit having a first end positioned downstream of the electrode arrangement and a second end positioned at or upstream of the strainer such that the recirculation conduit feeds water containing biocide to the strainer and discharges water containing biocide through the first port.

(17) In certain examples, at least one controllable pump is used to perform the drawing of the water through the first port, the feeding of the water containing biocide to the strainer, and/or the discharging of the water containing biocide through the first port.

(18) In certain examples, at least two controllable pumps are used to perform the drawing of the water through the first port, the feeding of the water containing biocide to the strainer, and/or the discharging of the water containing biocide through the first port.

(19) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through each of a first port and a second port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source through each of the first and the second ports flows: a first strainer through which water drawn through the first port flows before reaching the electrode arrangement: a second strainer through which water drawn through the second port flows before reaching the electrode arrangement: a first recirculation conduit configured to feed water containing biocide generated by the electrolytic cell to the first strainer: and a second recirculation conduit configured to feed water containing biocide generated by the electrolytic cell to the second strainer. In some

examples, the first recirculation conduit is further configured to discharge water containing biocide generated by the electrolytic cell through the first port. In some examples, the second recirculation conduit is also configured to discharge water containing biocide through the second port.

(20) In certain examples, a controllable pump is used to perform the drawing of the water through the first and second ports, and/or the feeding of the water containing biocide to the first and second strainers, and/or the discharging of the water containing biocide through the first and second ports, the controllable pump being operable in a forward mode in which the pump acts to draw water from the water source into the water system through the first port and a reverse mode in which the pump acts to draw water from the water source into the water system through the second port.

(21) In certain examples, at least first and second controllable pumps are used to perform the drawing of the water through the first and second ports, and/or the feeding of the water containing biocide to the first and second strainers, and/or the discharging of the water containing biocide through the first and second ports, the first and second pumps being controllable in a cooperative fashion including a first mode in which the first pump is active and the second pump is idle and the first pump acts to draw water from the water source into the water system through the first port, and a second mode in which the second pump is active and the first pump is idle and the second pump acts to draw water from the water source into the water system through the second port.

(22) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, a method of bio-inhibiting an onboard water system of a watercraft is provided, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the method comprising pumping untreated water from the water source through the first port such that the untreated water is pumped through a strainer of the onboard water system and to an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell, the electrolytic cell generating biocide in the untreated water such that the untreated water becomes treated water: and feeding at least a first portion of the treated water to the strainer via a recirculation conduit. In some examples, the method further comprises feeding at least a second portion of the treated water to a water-reliant component of the onboard water system. In some examples, the method further comprises discharging at least a third portion of the treated water through the first port.

(23) In accordance with still further aspects of the present disclosure, a method of bio-inhibiting an onboard water system of a watercraft is provided, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through each of a first port and a second port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the method comprising alternating between i) pumping first untreated water from the water source through the first port such that the first untreated water is pumped through a first strainer of the onboard water system and to an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell, the electrolytic cell generating biocide in the first untreated water such that the first untreated water becomes first treated water: and feeding at least a first portion of the first treated water to a second strainer of the onboard water system via a first recirculation conduit: and ii) pumping second untreated water from the water source through the second port such that the second untreated water is pumped through the second strainer of the onboard water system and to the electrode arrangement, the electrolytic cell generating biocide in the second untreated water such that the second untreated water becomes second treated water: and feeding at least a first portion of the second treated water to the first strainer of the onboard water system via a second recirculation conduit. In some examples, the method further comprises feeding at least a second portion of the first treated water and/or the second treated water to a water-reliant component (e.g., a heat exchanger) of the onboard water system. In some examples, the method further comprises discharging at least a third portion of the first treated water through the second port and/or discharging at least a third portion of the second treated water through the first port.

(24) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, there is provided a biocide

generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling of an onboard water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through an inlet positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows: and a biocide distribution conduit terminating at an outlet positioned in the body or hull of the watercraft, the outlet being positioned relative to the inlet such that biocide discharged from the watercraft into the water source through the outlet is drawn through the inlet. In some examples, the water system includes a flow diverter that provides for controllable flow of the drawn water to one or both of a water-reliant component of the onboard water system and the electrode arrangement. In some examples, the inlet and the outlet are defined by a single through-hull fitting. In some examples, the inlet and the outlet are defined by separate through-hull fittings.

(25) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling of an onboard water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through an inlet positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system comprising a conduit arrangement that defines a first flow path extending from the inlet to an electrode arrangement and from the electrode arrangement to an outlet, and a second flow path extending from the inlet to a water-reliant component of the onboard water system, wherein the outlet is positioned relative to the inlet such that biocide ejected from the watercraft into the water source through the outlet is drawn through the inlet. In some examples, the second flow path bypasses the electrode arrangement. In some examples, the second flow path does not bypass the electrode arrangement.

(26) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, a method of bio-inhibiting an onboard water system of a watercraft is provided, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through an inlet positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the method comprising pumping water from the water source through the inlet such that the water is pumped to an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell, the electrolytic cell generating biocide in the water such that the water becomes treated water: and feeding at least a first portion of the treated water to an outlet positioned in the body or hull of the watercraft such that the at least a first portion of the treated water flows out of the outlet into the water source; and pumping at least a second portion of the at least a first portion of the treated water into the onboard water system through the inlet. In some examples, the method further comprises feeding at least a third portion of the treated water to a water-reliant component of the onboard water system.

(27) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through at least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a direction of flow when water is being drawn through the first port into the water system, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows: a flow meter positioned downstream of the electrode arrangement to detect metered flow out of the electrolytic cell: and a strainer positioned to collect debris travelling downstream in water treated by the electrolytic cell and stop the debris from contacting the flow meter.

(28) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, a method comprises: retro-fitting an onboard water system of a watercraft with a biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction, the biocide generating system being configured to generate biocide in water flowing into the onboard water system from a water source on which the watercraft is supported

through at least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system including: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows, the electrode arrangement being at least partially positioned within a chamber having a flow inlet and a flow outlet: a flow meter positioned downstream of the electrode arrangement to detect metered flow out of the electrolytic cell: and a strainer positioned at the outlet of the chamber and upstream of the flow meter. In some examples, the method further includes, subsequent to the retro-fitting, activating the electrolytic cell in a purge mode.

(29) In accordance with further aspects of the present disclosure, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through at least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a flow path when water is being drawn through the first port into the water system, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows: a flow meter positioned to detect metered flow along the flow path: a first strainer positioned upstream of the electrode arrangement: and a second strainer positioned downstream of the first strainer and upstream of the flow meter to stop debris travelling downstream from the first strainer from contacting or passing the flow meter. In some examples, the second strainer is positioned at or adjacent an input of a canister housing the electrode arrangement. In some examples, the flow meter is positioned upstream of the electrolytic cell. In some examples, the flow meter is positioned downstream of the electrolytic cell.

(30) A variety of additional aspects will be set forth in the description that follows. The aspects can relate to individual features and to combinations of features. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the broad inventive concepts upon which the examples described herein are based.

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## Description

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate aspects of the present disclosure and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the disclosure. A brief description of the drawings is as follows:

(2) FIG. 1 schematically illustrates a watercraft including an embodiment of an onboard water system incorporating a biocide generating system in accordance with principles of the present disclosure, the watercraft being buoyantly supported by a body of water.

(3) FIG. 2 depicts an example electrolytic cell of the biocide generating system of FIG. 1.

(4) FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the electrolytic cell of FIG. 2.

(5) FIG. 4 is a schematic depiction of a portion of the onboard water system of FIG. 1.

(6) FIG. 5 is a schematic depiction of a portion of a further embodiment of an onboard water system in accordance with the present disclosure.

(7) FIG. 6 is a schematic depiction of a portion of a further embodiment of an onboard water system in accordance with the present disclosure.

(8) FIG. 7 is a schematic depiction of a portion of a further embodiment of an onboard water system in accordance with the present disclosure.

(9) FIG. 8 is a schematic depiction of a portion of a further embodiment of an onboard water system in accordance with the present disclosure.

(10) FIG. 9 is a schematic depiction of a portion of a further embodiment of an onboard water

system in accordance with the present disclosure.

(11) FIG. **10** is a schematic depiction of a portion of a further embodiment of an onboard water system in accordance with the present disclosure.

(12) FIG. **11** schematically illustrates a watercraft including a further embodiment of an onboard water system incorporating a biocide generating system in accordance with principles of the present disclosure, the watercraft being buoyantly supported by a body of water.

(13) FIG. **12** is a schematic end view of an embodiment of a through-hull fitting in accordance with the present disclosure.

(14) FIG. **13** is a schematic end view of a further embodiment of a through-hull fitting in accordance with the present disclosure.

(15) FIG. **14** schematically illustrates a watercraft including a further embodiment of an onboard water system incorporating a biocide generating system in accordance with principles of the present disclosure, the watercraft being buoyantly supported by a body of water.

(16) FIG. **15** schematically illustrates the watercraft and onboard water system of FIG. **1**, and including a schematically illustrated flow meter and a schematically illustrated secondary strainer.

(17) FIG. **16** is a schematic depiction of a portion of a further embodiment of an onboard water system in accordance with the present disclosure, including the secondary strainer and the flow meter.

(18) FIG. **17** is a perspective view of an example secondary strainer in accordance with the present disclosure.

(19) FIG. **18** is a further perspective view of the secondary strainer of FIG. **17**.

(20) FIG. **19** is a further perspective view of the secondary strainer of FIG. **17**.

(21) FIG. **20** is a side view of the secondary strainer of FIG. **17**.

(22) FIG. **21** is a further side view of the secondary strainer of FIG. **17**.

(23) FIG. **22** is an upstream end view of the secondary strainer of FIG. **17**.

(24) FIG. **23** is a downstream end view of the secondary strainer of FIG. **17**.

(25) FIG. **24** is a further side view of the secondary strainer of FIG. **17**.

(26) FIG. **25** is a further side view of the secondary strainer of FIG. **17**.

(27) FIG. **26** is a perspective view of a further example secondary strainer in accordance with the present disclosure.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(28) Like reference numbers refer to like parts in the several drawings.

(29) FIG. **1** depicts an on-board water system **400** of a watercraft **4** having a biocide generating system **324** in accordance with principles of the present disclosure. The watercraft is shown buoyantly supported by a body of water **2**. The body of water also acts as a water source that sources the onboard water system **400** with water. The biocide generating system **324** includes an electrolytic cell **345** incorporated within a stand-alone housing **352** (e.g., an in-line housing). The configuration of the housing **352** is one example of many possible configurations. The stand-alone housing **352** has been integrated into an on-board water system at a location between a strainer **340** and a pump **342**. The on-board water system **400** includes a through-hill fitting (THF) **328** defining an inlet, an outlet **330** defining a port, and water-reliant equipment **344** (e.g., a heat exchanger) downstream (i.e., on the high pressure side) of the pump **342**. The THF **328** and/or the water outlet **330** can include a valve (e.g., a seacock) to control the opening and closing of the inlet and/or outlet.

(30) The strainer **340** is a device that mechanically filters the water drawn into the water flow path to prevent undesirable material (e.g., particulates over a certain size) from passing through the water flow path. It will be appreciated that water strainers typically include removable filters that are periodically removed from the strainer, cleaned and then returned to the strainer. It will be appreciated that different filters can have different levels of filtration ranging from coarse to fine. Additionally, filters can have different configurations depending upon the type of strainer used.

Some types of filters can include a basket type configuration. Other filters can be configured as cylindrical sleeves. Water drawn from the source **2** via the inlet of a through the THF **328** enters an interior of the straining filter through the opening in the housing of the strainer. In some examples the water is comingled with already strained and biocide treated water via the recirculation conduit **402**. The water then passes through the filter media and exits the housing of the filter where it flows to the electrode arrangement **72**. Particulate materials strained by the filter media remain on an inside of the filter media. When the straining filter is removed from the housing of the strainer **340**, the strained material remains on the inside of the filter media and is preferably removed during cleaning.

(31) Referring to FIGS. **1-3**, the electrode arrangement **72** is mounted within the stand-alone housing **352**. The stand-alone housing **352** includes an upper gas collection location **353**. A gas sensing electrode **331** is positioned at the gas collection location **353**. The gas sensing electrode **331** projects through the housing **352** and can be coupled to a control system of the biocide generating system **324** by a lead. The terminal posts **84, 93** of electrodes **74, 76** also project through the housing **352** and are connected to a power source of the control system by leads. In certain examples, the power source is an electrical current source configured to apply a current across the electrodes **74, 76** to drive electrolysis for generating biocide within the stand-alone housing **352**. The current source can include an electronic circuit that delivers or absorbs an electric current independent of the voltage across it. The control **404** can interface with the pump **342** to determine whether the pump **342** is on or off. When the control **404** detects that the pump **342** is in an off state, the control **404** can terminate power to the electrolytic cell **345**. The system **400** can include a flow sensor for sensing water flow through the housing **352**, and can vary a magnitude of the electrical current based on detected water flow. The system **400** can include a temperature sensor for sensing a temperature of the control electronics of the system, and can stop the production of biocide if the temperature reaches a predetermined limit.

(32) The biocide may also move by diffusion or pumping action in a direction extending from the electrolytic cell toward the inlet **328** of the water system via a recirculation conduit **402**. In this way, water containing biocide can move into the strainer **340** to inhibit bio-growth in the strainer **340** or other components of the water system located upstream of the electrolytic cell, such as the THF **328**.

(33) In certain examples, one or more valves can be provided within the recirculation conduit **402** or other flow conduits of the onboard water system **400**. The valves can be manually controlled, e.g., to change from a cleaning mode to a maintenance mode or vice versa. Likewise, the amount of power provided to the electrolytic cell can be adjusted via the control **404** depending on whether the water system is in a cleaning mode or maintenance mode.

(34) In some examples, the valves can be linked to temperature, flow and/or pressure sensors and automatically adjusted via the control **404** to provide for flow of treated water (i.e., water treated with biocide by the electrode arrangement **72**) to portions of the water treatment system that are both downstream and upstream of the electrode arrangement **72**. In some examples, where treated water is directed and/or in what amounts depends on whether the water-reliant components **344** of the onboard water system presently require or do not require water. If water is not needed in the water-reliant component(s) **344**, for example, one or more valves can shut off flow of biocide treated water to the water-reliant components while allowing gravity, residual pressure differential, or pump driven flow of treated water to other components of the onboard water systems such as the strainer **340**, the THF **328**, and/or any flow conduits that are upstream via the recirculation conduit **402**. The system **400** may also be configured to operate in a mode wherein biocide treated water flows to the water-reliant component(s) **344** and to the upstream components of the water system at the same time. Conduit size and/or valves (optionally, controlled by the control **404** based on flow and/or pressure feedback) can be used to meter the flow of the biocide treated water such that the water demands of the water reliant-component(s) are met while still treating other components of



the water system with biocide.

(35) In certain examples, the water flow path may provide water to water system components for which biocide is not desired. Examples of such components can include potable water systems for providing drinking water (drinking water systems often include reverse osmosis filtration systems that are not compatible with significant levels of chlorine), shower water, water for faucets, or other potable water uses on the water vessel. A valve can be used to open and close fluid communication between the main water flow path and such a biocide incompatible component. When water system components that are incompatible with the presence of biocide in the water are in need of water from the water flow path, power to the electrolytic cell of the biocide generating system can be temporarily turned off so as to inhibit the generation of biocide. It will be appreciated that the control **404** can interface with such water systems and can automatically disable (i.e., turn off) the biocide generating system when water is needed for a potable water system, a bait well, or other water system where biocide is incompatible or otherwise not desired.

(36) In the example of FIG. **1**, the watercraft **4** is shown with only one on-board water system **400** having one water-reliant component **344**. In other examples, watercraft may include multiple on-board water systems each having one or more pumps that operate independently of one another. Each water system can include one or more water-reliant components **344**. It will be appreciated that separate biocide generating systems can be incorporated into each of the on-board water systems of the watercraft and can be controlled by a common control unit.

(37) It will be appreciated that biocide generating systems in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure can be used for watercraft launched in both saltwater and freshwater. However, a preferred biocide in accordance with the aspects of the present disclosure includes chlorine generated through the electrolysis of seawater. Therefore, for freshwater watercraft, biocide generating systems in accordance with principles of the present disclosure can include a salt supplementing station where salt such as sodium chloride is added to the water of the on-board water system before the electrolytic cell of the biocide generating system. For marine watercraft, the natural salt present in sea water or brackish water is sufficient to allow for the in situ generation of biocide within the water flowing through the water flow path. For freshwater applications, it is contemplated that other biocides such as copper could also be used. In such systems, an electrolytic cell including electrodes of copper can be used to introduce copper as a biocide into the water of the water flow path.

(38) As indicated above, a preferred biocide generated by biocide generating systems in accordance with principles of the present disclosure includes chlorine and/or a derivative thereof. Other biocides can also be generated dependent upon the type of salts present in the water. The process for generating biocide can include an in situ process where sea water (e.g., ocean water, brackish water, etc.) is subjected to electrolysis as the sea water flows through an electrolytic cell. The electrolytic cell can include electrodes defining an anode (e.g., a positive pole) and a cathode (e.g., a negative pole). The direct passage of electrical current through the sea water between the anode and the cathode drives electrolysis that separates the water and the salt into their basic elements. In certain examples, chlorine is generated at the anode and hydrogen is generated at the cathode. The chlorine generated at the anode and/or derivatives thereof can function as a biocide for inhibiting bio growth in conduits and equipment of the water flow path located after from the electrolytic cell. In certain examples, the controller can periodically reverse the polarity of the electrodes to minimize scaling.

(39) In certain examples of the present disclosure, electrolytic cells in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure can include electrode arrangements each including first and second electrodes. The first electrode can include a plurality of first electrode plates and the second electrode can include a plurality of second electrode plates. The first and second electrode plates can be interleaved with respect to one another such that interstitial spaces are positioned between each of the first and second electrode plates. The saltwater flowing through the water flow path

flows within the interstitial spaces and is electrolyzed as the water flows through the interstitial spaces such that chlorine is generated. In certain examples, each of the electrode plates includes an electrically conductive material such as a metal material. In one example, the metal material may include titanium. In certain examples, the electrode plates can be coated with a catalyst coating adapted to catalyze the generation of chlorine. In one example, the catalyst coating can include a platinum group metal. Example platinum group metals suitable for use in a catalyst coating include iridium and ruthenium. In certain examples, the catalyst coating may include metal oxide mixtures that can include oxides of iridium, and/or oxides of ruthenium and/or oxides of titanium and/or oxides of tantalum and/or oxides of niobium. It will be appreciated that the above catalysts are merely examples and that other catalyst mixtures can also be used. In certain examples, the catalyst coating including metal oxide mixtures may not be applied to the outside major surfaces of the outermost electrode plates in the electrolyte cell. Eliminating the coating on the outside major surfaces can help to reduce and/or eliminate scale build-up.

(40) It will be appreciated that the rate at which biocide is generated is directly dependent upon the magnitude of the electrical current directed across the electrodes. Also, the amount of biocide generated is dependent upon the amount of time the cell is generating biocide. Further, the concentration of biocide generated in the electrolyte (e.g., sea water or other salt water) flowing through the system is dependent upon water flow rate. Thus, the concentration of biocide present in the flowing electrolyte of the system can be controlled by varying the current level across the electrodes and/or cycling the cell On and Off to vary the time of operation of the cell and/or varying the water flow rate through the system. In certain examples, the water flow rate through the system is monitored, and the electrical current level and/or the time of operation of the cell are varied (e.g., controlled, regulated, etc.) to achieve a target biocide concentration in the water of the system, which can in turn depend on the operating mode (e.g., cleaning versus maintenance) of the system. It will be appreciated that the water flow rate can be determined based on flow information derived from the pump control or by one or more flow sensors.

(41) In certain examples, the control **404** can regulate the amount of chlorine generated based at least partially on a measured flow rate of the water flowing through the electrolytic cell for electrolysis.

(42) In certain examples, pulsing the current to the electrodes On and Off results in slugs of chlorine treated water passing through the system, rather than a continuous flow of water having a constant chlorine concentration. In other examples, the total output of chlorine is controlled independent of the water flow rate through the electrolyte unit.

(43) In certain examples, chlorine sensors for sensing chlorine concentration in the water can be provided at one or more locations along the flow path of the water system. For example, the sensors can be positioned at the electrolytic cell unit, at the seawater outlet, or at other positions along the flow path of the water system. The controller can interface with the sensors and can use chlorine concentration data from the sensors to control or vary operation of the electrolytic cell. For example, based on the sensed chlorine concentration or concentrations, the controller can increase or decrease water flow rate through the electrolytic cell unit and/or the electrical current provided to the electrolytic cell unit and/or an On and Off pulse duration of the cell unit. In this way, the controller can modify the rate of biocide generation and/or the water flow rate of the system in real time to maintain a desired chlorine concentration throughout the system or at discrete locations in the system. Moreover, the controller can control operation of the system so that the residual chlorine in the water discharged from the outlet **330** does not exceed a predetermined concentration level.

(44) As mentioned, for different applications, biocide concentrations higher or lower than the above specified concentrations may be generated. For example, under certain circumstances, it may be desired to “shock” the water flow path (e.g., for purging purposes). For such applications, the biocide generating system can generate significantly higher concentrations of biocide as needed.

(45) In a preferred example, the biocide generating system includes an adaptive dynamic control system that dynamically varies the magnitude of the current applied across the electrodes in direct proportion to the flow rate of water through the electrolytic cell. Thus, the rate of biocide production varies directly with the water flow rate through the system. The magnitude of electrical current used to provide a desired biocide concentration in the flow of sea water through the electrolytic cell for a given water flow rate can be determined by a method such as an algorithm or look-up table. The flow rate can be determined by a flow sensor. By dynamically controlling the rate of biocide generation, it is possible to maintain the concentration of biocide at a target level or within a target range regardless of the water flow rate.

(46) The biocide generating system preferably operates to generate biocide while water is flowing through the water system. In this way, biocide generated at the electrolytic cell can be carried with the flowing water to treat the conduit and components of the water system located after the electrolytic cell. As indicated above, biocide can be generated continuously or intermittently as the water flows through the system. In certain examples, the biocide generating system may also operate to generate biocide for a controlled or limited duration when water is not flowing through the water system (e.g., when the pump is off). Preferably, the duration is short enough to prevent the excessive accumulation of gas within the system. In certain examples, the biocide generating system may operate intermittently to generate biocide while water is not flowing through the system so as to generate enough biocide to treat the portion of the water system upstream of the electrolytic cell without collecting excessive gas within the system (e.g., within the strainer). Preferably, for a majority of the time that water is not flowing through the water system, the biocide generating system will not be generating biocide.

(47) Referring now to FIGS. **4-10**, various embodiments of onboard water systems and their corresponding flow regimes, including both flows of biocide treated water and non-biocide treated water, will be described. Across all of these embodiments, one or more system inlets are shown. Each system inlet is adapted to be in selective open communication with a water source upon which the watercraft is buoyantly supported such that water from the water source can be drawn into the water system. Each system inlet is positioned in the body of the watercraft. For example, each system inlet can include a through-hull fitting (THF) that allows for selective opening and closing of a port defined by the inlet. Thus, each THF can include a valve, for example, such as a sea cock. The valve can be manually or automatically controlled, e.g., via the control **404**, depending on the particular operating mode of the onboard water system at a particular point in time. The various flow regimes of FIGS. **4-10** also depict one or more valves that can help control flow of water to the various components of the onboard water system. Likewise, the valves can help control the level of biocide concentration that is directed to each component of the water system that requires intermittent or continuous biocide treatment. The valves can include, e.g., one way valves, check valves, etc. The valves can be manually operated or automatically controlled by the control **404** depending, e.g., on the operating mode of the onboard water system. In some examples, one or more of the valves can be used to provide metered flow of biocide treated water as needed. The control **404** is also operatively linked to the electrolytic cell and the pump(s). In this manner the control **404** can control when biocide is generated and in what amounts (e.g., by turning on and off and regulating the magnitude of current between the electrode arrangement) and, through control of the pump(s), when water is to be drawn from the water source, and/or driven in an internal flow pattern, and/or discharged to the water source. It should be appreciated that each of the water systems depicted in FIGS. **4-10** can serve a plurality of water-reliant components **344**, including water-reliant components that are not compatible with biocide treated water. Each individual flow regime and control system can be tailored to the specific needs of the individual water-reliant components of a given system using, e.g., controllable valves and operating the biocide generator only intermittently. Each of the flow regimes of FIGS. **4-10** provides the ability to treat components of the water system that are upstream of the biocide generator with biocide. In

this manner, organic buildup is reduced at, e.g., the strainer(s), the THF(s), any flow conduits therebetween, etc.

(48) Referring now to FIG. 4, the flow regime of the onboard water system **400** previously described is schematically depicted. A pump **342** is operable in a single pumping direction in which water is pumped from the water source via the THF **328**. This untreated water flows (along the flow direction **410**) to the strainer **340** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the high pressure side of the pump **342**, the biocide treated water is furcated (optionally via a control valve) at a furcation fitting **470** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to one or more water-reliant components **344** of the water system **400** (and then discharged via the outlet **330**), and also to the recirculation conduit **402**. The recirculation conduit **402** directs the treated water to a junction **472** that is upstream of the strainer **340**. At the junction **472**, the treated water comingles with untreated water being drawn through the THF **328**, such that the flow conduit segment **474** and the strainer **340** are treated with biocide to reduce biofouling in those components. It should be appreciated that the junction **472** can be positioned such that, upon shutting off of the pump **342**, residual treated water in the recirculation conduit **402** can be discharged through the THF **328** on the action of gravity and/or a residual pressure differential in the flow regime.

(49) Referring now to FIG. 5, the pump **342** of the onboard water system **500** is positioned upstream of the electrolytic cell **345** (in the system **400** of FIG. 4 the pump **342** is positioned downstream of the electrolytic cell). The pump **342** is operable in a single pumping direction in which water is pumped from the water source via the THF **328**. This untreated water flows (along the flow direction **510**) to the strainer **340** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water then passes through the pump **342** and is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the downstream side of the electrolytic cell **345** the biocide treated water is furcated (optionally via a control valve) at a furcation fitting **570** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to one or more water-reliant components **344** of the water system **500** (and then discharged via the outlet **330**), and also to the recirculation conduit **502**. The recirculation conduit **502** directs the treated water to a junction **572** with the THF **328** (that is upstream of the strainer **340** and the pump **342**). At the junction **572**, the treated water comingles with untreated water being drawn through the THF **328**, such that the flow conduit segment **574**, the strainer **340**, and the pump **342** are treated with biocide to reduce biofouling in those components. The close proximity of the junction **572** to the THF **328** allows for some portion of the biocide treated water to pass through the THF **328** (and thereby treat the THF) and be discharged into the water source even when the pump **342** is operating.

(50) Referring now to FIG. 6, the flow regime of an onboard water system **600** is schematically depicted. A pump **342** is operable in a single pumping direction in which water is pumped from the water source via the THF **328**. This untreated water flows (along the flow direction **610**) to the strainer **340** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the high pressure side of the pump **342** the biocide treated water is furcated (optionally via a control valve) at a furcation fitting **670** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to one or more water-reliant components **344** of the water system **600** (and then discharged via the outlet **330**), and also to the recirculation conduit **602**. The recirculation conduit **602** directs the treated water to a junction **672** that is upstream of the strainer **340**. At the junction **672**, the treated water comingles with untreated water being drawn through the THF **328**, such that the flow conduit segment **674** and the strainer **340** are treated with biocide to reduce biofouling in those components. It should be appreciated that the junction **672** can be positioned such that, upon shutting off of the pump **342**, residual treated water in the recirculation conduit **602** can be discharged through the THF **328** on the action of gravity and/or a residual pressure differential in the flow regime. The system **600** is similar to the system **400** except that in the system **600** the strainer **340** and electrolytic cell **345** are a single integrated or unitary

component, whereas in the system **400** the strainer **340** and the electrolytic cell **345** are standalone components.

(51) Referring now to FIG. 7, the flow regime of an onboard water system **700** is schematically depicted. The system **700** includes two independent inlets having THF's **706**, **708** for selectively drawing water from a water source. A reversible pump **743** is selectively operable in a forward direction and a reverse direction. The control **404** can control the pump **743** and cause the pump **743** to alternate between forward and reverse directions while coordinating operation of the electrolytic cell **345** such that all components **344** that are compatible with the biocide generated by the electrolytic cell **345** are intermittently treated with biocide treated water. Within the overall flow regime, the pump **743** is positioned between the first strainer **740** and the electrolytic cell **345**. In the forward direction, the pumping action of the pump **743** causes water to be drawn from the source through the THF **706** into the onboard water system and along a flow path **710**. In the reverse direction, the pumping action causes water to be drawn from the source through the THF **708** into the onboard water system and along a flow path **720**. A first strainer **740** is associated with the THF **706**. A second strainer **742** is associated with the THF **708**. When the pump **743** is operating in a forward direction, untreated water flows (along the flow direction **710**) to the first strainer **740** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the high pressure side of the pump **743** the biocide treated water is furcated (optionally via a control valve) at a furcation fitting **770** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to one or more water-reliant components **344** of the water system **700** (and then discharged via the outlet **330**), and also to two recirculation conduits **702** and **704**. The recirculation conduit **702** directs the treated water to a junction **772** that is upstream of the strainer **740**. At the junction **772**, the treated water comingles with untreated water being drawn through the THF **706**, such that the flow conduit segment **774**, the strainer **740**, and the pump **743** are treated with biocide to reduce biofouling in those components. It should be appreciated that the junction **772** can be positioned such that, upon shutting off of the pump **743**, residual treated water in the recirculation conduit **702** can be discharged through the THF **706** on the action of gravity and/or a residual pressure differential in the flow regime. The recirculation conduit **704** directs the treated water to a junction **776**. From the junction **776** the treated water is discharged through the THF **708** thereby treating the THF **708** with biocide. When the pump **743** is operating in a reverse direction, untreated water flows from the THF **708** (along the flow direction **720**) to the second strainer **742** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water then passes through a one-way valve **790** and a juncture **792** and is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the high pressure side of the pump **743** the biocide treated water is furcated (optionally via a control valve) at a furcation fitting **780** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to the two recirculation conduits **702** and **704** (optionally, and depending on the configuration of the strainer **740**, at least a portion of the treated water can be directed in a reverse direction through the strainer **740** and then discharged through the THF **706**). The recirculation conduit **702** directs the treated water to the junction **772** and is discharged through the THF **706**, treating the THF **706** with biocide. The recirculation conduit **704** directs the treated water to the junction **776** where the treated water comingles with untreated water being drawn through the THF **708**, such that the flow conduit segment **778** and the strainer **742** are treated to reduce biofouling in those components. It should be appreciated that the junction **776** can be positioned such that, upon shutting off or reversal of the pump **743**, residual treated water in the recirculation conduit **704** can be discharged through the THF **708** on the action of gravity and/or a residual pressure differential in the flow regime.

(52) Referring now to FIG. 8, the pump **342** of the onboard water system **800** is positioned upstream of the electrolytic cell **345**. The pump **342** is operable in a single pumping direction in which water is pumped from the water source via the THF **328**. This untreated water flows (along the flow direction **810**) to the strainer **340** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated

water then passes through the pump **342** and is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the downstream side of the electrolytic cell **345** the biocide treated water is furcated (optionally via a control valve) at a furcation fitting **870** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to one or more water-reliant components **344** of the water system **500** (and then discharged via the outlet **330**), and also to the recirculation conduit **802**. The recirculation conduit **802** directs the treated water to a storage tank **806** where treated water is stored until the control **404** causes the stored treated water to be released. In some examples, the pump **342** runs until the storage tank **806** is full. At this point, either a valve closes off additional flow of treated water to the recirculation conduit **802**, or the pump **342** is switched off. Once the pump **342** is switched off, the auxiliary pump **804** can be switched on. The auxiliary pump **804** draws treated water from the storage tank **806** and forces the treated water out of the THF **328** via a one way valve **872** and along a flow path **820**, thereby treating the THF **328** with biocide and also the strainer **340**. Once the pump **804** has been operating for a predetermined amount of time, it can be switched off and the pump **342** switched on, causing some residual treated water in the conduit **874** to comingle with untreated water being drawing through the THF **328** to flow to the strainer **340** and the pump **342** and thereby treat those components with biocide. Optionally, if water is not presently needed by the water-reliant component(s) **344**, the pumps **342** and **804** can be operated simultaneously to generate biocide in a treatment circulation route (or circuit) for treating the strainer **340** and the pump **342**.

(53) Referring now to FIG. **9**, the pump **342** of the onboard water system **900** is positioned upstream of the electrolytic cell **345**. The pump **342** is operable in a single pumping direction in which water is pumped from the water source via the THF **328** and a storage tank **930**. The storage tank **930** serves as a reservoir of water for future use by the water reliant component(s) of the onboard water system, e.g., during periods of high demand. This untreated water flows (along the flow direction **910**) to the strainer **340** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water then passes through the pump **342** and is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the downstream side of the electrolytic cell **345** the biocide treated water flows to a controllable diverter **932** (controllable by the control **404**) which, in a first operating mode, directs the treated water to one or more water-reliant components **344** of the water system **500** (and then discharged via the outlet **330**). Through operation of the diverter **932**, the system **900** can operate in multiple modes. In one mode, once the tank **930** is full or meets a predetermined threshold volume of water, the THF **328** can be closed such that no further water is drawn from the water source, and the diverter **932** can be controlled to divert all treated water to the recirculation conduit **902** and away from the water-reliant component(s) **344**, thereby generating a closed circulation loop with the pump **342** along a flow path **920**. The flow path **920** also causes treated water to flow to and treat the strainer **340** and the pump **342** with biocide. Water is drawn from the tank **930** until a predetermined concentration of biocide is achieved in the water in the closed loop by the electrolytic cell **345**. Once the needed concentration is reached in the closed flow circuit and the strainer **340** and pump **342** are adequately treated with biocide, the pump **342** can be switched off, the THF **328** opened and the treated water can be discharged through the THF **328** (e.g., by gravity) to thereby treat the THF **328** with biocide. Thereafter the diverter **932** can revert to its non-diverting configuration and the pump switched on to feed water to the water-reliant components **344** as needed.

(54) Referring now to FIG. **10**, the flow regime of an onboard water system **1000** is schematically depicted. The system **1000** includes two independent inlets having THF's **1026**, **1028** for selectively drawing water from a water source. Each THF **1026**, **1028** has an associated strainer **1038**, **1040**, an associated single-directional pump **1042**, **1044**, and an associated recirculation conduit **1002**, **1004**, respectively. The system **1000**, via the control **404** is configured, in some examples, to alternate operation of the pumps **1042** and **1044** such that only one or neither of the pumps is operating at one time, and both pumps are never operating at the same time. When the

pump **1042** is pumping (and the pump **1044** is idle), the pumping action of the pump causes water to be drawn from the source through the THF **1026** into the onboard water system and along a flow path **1010**. Untreated water flows (along the flow direction **1010**) to the first strainer **1038** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the high pressure side of the pump **1042** the biocide treated water is furcated (optionally via a control valve) at a furcation fitting **1070** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to one or more water-reliant components **344** of the water system **1000**, optionally via another strainer **1077**, and also to two recirculation conduits **1002** and **1004** via junction **1072**. The recirculation conduit **1002** directs the treated water directly to the strainer, or to a point near the strainer **1038** (e.g., a point upstream of the strainer **1038**), where the treated water comingles with untreated water being drawn through the THF **1026**, such that the flow conduit segment **1074**, the strainer **1038**, and the pump **1042** are treated with biocide to reduce biofouling in those components. The recirculation conduit **1004** directs the treated water such that it discharges through the THF **1028**, thereby treating the THF **1028** with biocide. When the pump **1044** is pumping (and the pump **1042** is idle), the pumping action of the pump **1044** causes water to be drawn from the source through the THF **1028** into the onboard water system and along a flow path **1020**. Untreated water flows (along the flow direction **1020**) to the second strainer **1040** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). On the high pressure side of the pump **1044** the biocide treated water is furcated (optionally via a control valve) at a furcation fitting **1070** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to one or more water-reliant components **344** of the water system **1000**, optionally via another strainer **1077**, and also to two recirculation conduits **1002** and **1004** via junction **1072**. The recirculation conduit **1004** directs the treated water directly to, or to a point that is near the strainer **1040** (e.g., a point upstream of the strainer **1040**), where the treated water comingles with untreated water being drawn through the THF **1028**, such that the flow conduit segment **1078**, the strainer **1040**, and the pump **1044** are treated with biocide to reduce biofouling in those components. The recirculation conduit **1002** directs the treated water such that it discharges through the THF **1026**, thereby treating the THF **1026** with biocide. Thus, by alternating activation of the pumps **1042**, **1044** with coordination of biocide generation by the electrolytic cell **345**, biocide treatment of both THF's **1026**, **1028**, both strainers **1038**, **1040**, and both pumps **1042**, **1044** can be achieved in alternating or intermitted fashion, thereby improving the performance and increasing the lifetime of the overall system **1000**.

(55) Referring now to FIG. **11**, there is depicted a further example on-board water system **1400** of a watercraft **4** having a biocide generating system **324** in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure. The watercraft is shown buoyantly supported by a body of water **2**. The body of water **2** also acts as a water source that sources the onboard water system **1400** with water. The on-board water system **1400** includes a THF **1328**, an outlet **330** defining a port, a pump **342**, and water-reliant equipment **344** (e.g., a heat exchanger).

(56) Two flow paths are defined on the high pressure side of the pump **342**. A first of the flow paths directs flow of biocide treated water to the water-reliant equipment **344**, which water is ultimately discharged through the outlet **330**. A second of the flow paths is via a recirculation line or biocide distribution conduit **1402** that bypasses the water-reliant equipment **344**. The recirculation line **1402** directs flow of biocide treated water to the THF **328**. One or more controllable valves or other flow control features (e.g., a flow diverter, relative flow conduit sizes) can be used to control the amount of fluid flow as between the first and second flow paths.

(57) Referring now to FIG. **12**, a schematic end view of the THF **1328** is depicted. The THF **1328** defines an inlet **1362** and an outlet **1360**. In at least some examples, the inlet and/or the outlet are positioned to be below the water line of the water source when the watercraft is buoyantly supported by the water source. A grate **1364** is positioned externally to the outlet to prevent relatively large objects in the water source from entering the onboard water system through the

inlet **1362**. The exterior of such grates can be susceptible to biofouling, such as by attachment of barnacles and mussels, which can inhibit flow into the onboard water system and require costly biofouling removal procedures, such as manual removal of the organisms from the grate **1364** by a diver. The outlet **1360** can also be provided with an external grate **1366**.

(58) Both the inlet and the outlet can be in fluid communication with the water source **2**. Flow through the inlet and/or or the outlet can be controlled with valves. Action by the pump **342** draws water from the water source **2** through the inlet **1362**, and discharges biocide treated water via the biocide distribution conduit **1402** into the water source **2** through the outlet **1360**. The positioning of the outlet **1360** relative to the inlet **1362** can be such that water drawn through the inlet **1362** includes biocide discharged through the outlet **1360**. For example, the outlet and inlet are positioned close together to maximize re-introduction of discharged biocide through the inlet **1362**. In some examples, the outlet **1360** can be positioned on the bow side of the inlet **1362** since typical motion of the watercraft **4** will cause the discharged biocide to flow towards the stern (i.e., towards the inlet **1362**). The outlet **1360** can also take on different forms, such as a plurality of outlets surrounding or partially surrounding the inlet **1362**, or a tubular shaped-outlet that surrounds the inlet **1362**. Such an arrangement is schematically depicted in FIG. **13**, in which the THF **1370** includes an inlet **1362** surrounded by biocide discharge outlet **1372** that has a tubular configuration. Optionally, the outlet **1372** can also be provided with an external grate.

(59) In still other examples, the outlet and the inlet are not integrated into the same through-hull fitting, but rather separate through hull fittings positioned near each other in the hull of the watercraft.

(60) The electrode arrangement **72** and flow volumes and/or flow rates are controlled to generate sufficient biocide discharged via the outlet of the THF such that the concentration of biocide in the water being drawn into the onboard water system via the inlet **1362** of the THF is sufficient to inhibit or clean biofouling in the components of the onboard water system positioned between the inlet of the THF and the electrolytic cell, including the grate **1364** on the exterior of the inlet **1362** itself.

(61) Referring now to FIG. **14**, a further embodiment of an onboard water system **1500** is depicted. Action by the pump **342** draws water from the source **2** through the inlet and exterior grate of the THF **1328**, **1370**. On the low pressure side of the pump **342** the drawn water flows through the strainer **340**. On the high pressure side of the pump **342** two flow paths are defined. A first flow path directs fluid flow to the water-reliant component(s) **344** via conduit **1506**, and ultimately out the outlet **330**. A second flow path directs fluid flow via the conduit **1502** to a biocide generating electrolytic cell **345** (generated using an electrode arrangement), and from the electrolytic cell **345** to the outlet of the THF **1328**, **1370** via the biocide distribution conduit **1504**. Relative flow between the two flow paths can be controlled using a flow diverter or other flow controls. At the outlet of the THF **1328**, **1370**, the biocide treated water is discharged into the water source **2** and then at least partially reintroduced to the onboard water system **1500** through the inlet of the THF **1328**, **1370**, such that all components of the onboard water system, including the external grate of the THF **1328**, **1370**, other components of the THF, the strainer **340**, the pump **342**, and the water reliant component(s) are at least periodically treated with biocide generated by the electrolytic cell **345**.

(62) In some examples, a scoop is provided at the inlet, the scoop being configured to direct water from the water source into the onboard water system. In some examples, water from the water source flows from the scoop to an onboard water reservoir or storage tank of the onboard water system. In some examples, water from the water source flows from the scoop into the onboard water system and does not flow to an onboard water reservoir or storage tank. In some examples, one or more of the biocide generating systems of the present disclosure is configured to feed biocide treated water to the scoop to inhibit and/or clean biofouling of the scoop. In some examples, treated water discharged through the outlet is drawn into the scoop to inhibit and/or



clean biofouling of the scoop. In some examples, the onboard water system does not include an onboard water reservoir or storage tank.

(63) Referring now to FIG. 15, the watercraft and modified onboard water system of FIG. 1 is illustrated, the onboard water system including a schematically illustrated flow meter **2000** and a schematically illustrated secondary strainer **2002**, with the strainer **340** functioning as a primary strainer. The flow meter **2000** is operatively coupled to the control **404**, e.g., with one or more signal lines, to provide detected flow data to the control **404**. In some examples, the flow meter **2000** is an electronic paddle flow meter. The biocide generating system **324** includes a housing **2004** (e.g., a canister) defining a chamber **2006** in which is positioned the electrode arrangement **72**. The chamber **2006** has an inlet **2008** at an upstream side of the chamber **2006** and upstream of the electrode arrangement **72**, and an outlet **2010** at a downstream side of the chamber **2006** and downstream of the electrode arrangement **72**.

(64) The secondary strainer **2002** is positioned at the outlet **2010** and the flow meter **2000** is positioned downstream of the secondary strainer **2002**. In some examples, the secondary strainer **2002** can be removed and re-installed at the outlet **2010** simply by opening the housing **2004** to access the chamber **2006**.

(65) In alternative examples the secondary strainer is not a removable component.

(66) The secondary strainer **2002** is positioned to collect debris that is not caught by the primary strainer **340**. For example, if the watercraft **4** is retrofitted with the biocide generating system **324** after the watercraft has already been in use for some time, it is possible for biofouling to have occurred downstream of the strainer **340** and upstream of the biocide generating system **324**, e.g., in the region **2012** or a portion of the region **2012**.

(67) Following the retrofitting, biocide introduced to the region **2012** via the recirculation conduit **402** can kill the accumulated biomaterial therein, causing it to dislodge and flow downstream through the onboard water system, potentially damaging or clogging portions of the onboard water system. For example, flowing debris can become lodged in the flow meter **2000**, causing it to output faulty flow data to the control **400**.

(68) The strainer **2002** is configured and positioned to capture such flowing debris and prevent it from traveling further downstream where it might lodge in or damage, e.g., the flow meter **2000**, the pump **342**, the water reliant component(s) **344**, sensors or valves positioned along the flow path, etc. In some examples, the mesh size (i.e., the size of the openings in the mesh through which water flows along the flow path) of the secondary strainer **2002** is larger than the mesh size of the primary strainer **340**, such that only relatively large debris can be captured by the secondary strainer **2002** and such that water flow through the secondary strainer **2002** is only minimally impeded.

(69) Once the debris has been captured and the onboard water system is temporally shut off, the secondary strainer **2002** can be removed (e.g., by opening the housing **2004** to access the chamber **2006** and the secondary strainer **2002** positioned at the outlet **2010**) to clean off and discard the captured debris. The secondary strainer can then be, but need not be, returned to its position at the outlet **2010**, and operation of the onboard water system and the biocide generating system can be resumed.

(70) Referring now to FIG. 16, the flow regime of an onboard water system **2300** is schematically depicted. A pump **342** is operable in a single pumping direction in which water is pumped from the water source via the THF **328**. This untreated water flows (along the flow direction **2020**) to the primary strainer **340** which filters the untreated water. The filtered untreated water is then selectively treated with biocide by the electrolytic cell **345** (assuming biocide is being generated). The secondary strainer **2002** is positioned at the outlet **2010** of the chamber **2006** and can collect debris (e.g., debris dislodged during a purge of the onboard water system) that enters the flow path between the primary strainer **340** and the secondary strainer **2002**, thereby protecting the flow meter **2000** from such debris.

(71) Once the debris has been captured by the secondary strainer **2002** and the onboard water system is temporally shut off, the secondary strainer **2002** can be removed (e.g., by opening the housing **2004** to access the chamber **2006** and the secondary strainer **2002** positioned at the outlet **2010**) to clean off the captured debris. The secondary strainer can then be, but need not be, returned to its position at the outlet **2010**, and operation of the onboard water system and the biocide generating system can be resumed. On the high pressure side of the pump **342** the biocide treated water is furcated at a furcation fitting **470** (e.g., a bifurcation fitting) to one or more water-reliant components **344**. Pre-retrofitting build-up of biomaterial positioned in the flow stream between the flow meter **2000** and downstream thereof can be discharged through the port **330** and/or captured by the primary strainer **340**. The recirculation conduit **402** directs the treated water to a junction **472** that is upstream of the strainer **340**. At the junction **472**, the treated water comingles with untreated water being drawn through the THF **328**, such that the flow conduit segment **474** and the strainer **340** are treated with biocide to reduce biofouling in those components. It should be appreciated that the junction **472** can be positioned such that, upon shutting off of the pump **342**, residual treated water in the recirculation conduit **402** can be discharged through the THF **328** on the action of gravity and/or a residual pressure differential in the flow regime.

(72) Referring now to FIGS. **17-25**, an example secondary strainer **2050** is depicted. The strainer **2050** can be used as the strainer **2002** described above. The overall shape and size of the strainer **2050** is selected such that it can be seated and mounted at the outlet of the chamber **2006**. The strainer **2050** includes features that allow it to be easily removed (for cleaning) and re-installed at the outlet of the chamber **2006**.

(73) The strainer **2050** includes a round body **2052** extending along an axis **2060** between an upstream end **2054** of the strainer **2050** and a downstream end **2056** of the strainer **2050**. An annular lip **2058** is configured to engage a wall of the chamber **2006** adjacent the outlet **2010** of the chamber **2006**. The upstream end **2054** is canted at an oblique angle relative to the axis **2060** and also defines a concavity. The concavity and the oblique orientation of the upstream end **2054** relative to the axis **2060** can help hold debris caught by the mesh **2062**. For example, even when the pump is off and flow through the strainer **2050** reduces or goes to zero, the concavity and greater deepness of the side **2070** compared with the opposite side **2072** can stop debris from falling off the strainer **2050**, the mesh functioning as a catch. The openings **2064** of the mesh extend all the way through the strainer **2050** (allowing water to flow through relatively unimpeded by the mesh) in the axial direction and are relatively large such that only relatively large debris (e.g., particles having smallest outer diameters on the order of about 4 millimeters to about 10 millimeters (e.g., about 6 millimeters) or greater) can be stopped and caught by the mesh **2062**. One of the mesh walls **2066** (in this example, a central mesh wall) axially protrudes in the upstream direction and can serve as a finger grasp or hand hold for removing and installing the strainer **2050**.

(74) Referring now to FIG. **26**, a further embodiment of a secondary strainer **2080** is depicted. The strainer **2080** has several features in common with the strainer **2050**. In the interest of brevity, only differences from the strainer **2050** will be described. The lip **2082** of the strainer **2080** is a segmented lip including lip segments **2084a**, **2084b**, **2084c**, and **2084d** with intermediate lip discontinuities **2086**. At each discontinuity **2086**, a resilient cantilever arm **2088** extends towards the downstream end **2056** of the strainer **2080**. At the free end of each cantilever arm **2088** is a latching projection **2090**. When installing the strainer **2080**, the free ends of the cantilever arms **2088** can flex toward the axis and then flex back to engage a wall at the outlet of the chamber of the biocide generator. The flexibly resilient nature of the cantilever arms **2088** also allows for relatively easy disengagement of the cantilever arms **2088** from the wall of the outlet when removing the strainer **2080** (e.g. for cleaning and discarding debris).

#### EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

(75) According to a 1.sup.st example embodiment, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured

to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through at least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a direction of flow when water is being drawn through the first port into the water system, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows; and a recirculation conduit having a first end positioned downstream of the electrode arrangement and a second end positioned proximate the first port such that the recirculation conduit is configured to discharge water containing biocide through the first port.

(76) According to a 2.sup.nd example embodiment, there is provided the first example embodiment, further comprising a storage tank, the storage tank configured to store water treated with biocide.

(77) According to a 3.sup.rd example embodiment, there is provided any of the 1.sup.st or 2.sup.nd example embodiments, wherein the water system further comprises one or more valves and/or one or more through-hull fittings and/or one or flow furcation fittings, wherein at least one of the one or more through-hull fittings defines one of the at least one port.

(78) According to a 4.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling of an onboard water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through an inlet positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows; and a biocide distribution conduit terminating at an outlet positioned in the body or hull of the watercraft, the outlet being positioned relative to the inlet such that biocide discharged from the watercraft into the water source through the outlet is drawn through the inlet.

(79) According to a 5.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 4.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the water system includes a flow diverter that provides for controllable flow of the drawn water to one or both of a water-reliant component of the onboard water system and the electrode arrangement.

(80) According to a 6.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided any of the 4.sup.th or 5.sup.th example embodiments, wherein the inlet and the outlet are integrated in a single through-hull fitting.

(81) According to a 7.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided any of the 4.sup.th or 5.sup.th example embodiments, wherein the inlet and the outlet are included in separate through-hull fittings.

(82) According to an 8.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling of an onboard water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through an inlet positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system comprising: a conduit arrangement that defines a first flow path extending from the inlet to an electrode arrangement and from the electrode arrangement to an outlet, and a second flow path extending from the inlet to a water-reliant component of the onboard water system, wherein the outlet is positioned relative to the inlet such that biocide discharged from the watercraft into the water source through the outlet is drawn through the inlet.

(83) According to a 9.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 8.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the second flow path bypasses the electrode arrangement.

(84) According to a 10.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 8.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the second flow path does not bypass the electrode arrangement.

(85) According to an 11.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided a method of bio-inhibiting an onboard water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through an inlet positioned in a body or hull of

the watercraft, the method comprising: pumping water from the water source through the inlet such that the water is pumped to an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell, the electrolytic cell generating biocide in the water such that the water becomes treated water: feeding at least a first portion of the treated water to an outlet positioned in the body or hull of the boat such that the at least a first portion of the treated water flows out of the outlet into the water source: and pumping at least a second portion of the at least a first portion of the treated water into the onboard water system through the inlet.

(86) According to a 12.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 11.sup.th example embodiment, further comprising feeding at least a third portion of the treated water to a water-reliant component of the onboard water system. wherein the biocide includes chlorine.

(87) According to a 13.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided any of the 1.sup.st through 12.sup.th example embodiments, wherein the biocide includes chlorine.

(88) According to a 14.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through at least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a direction of flow when water is being drawn through the first port into the water system, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source flows: a flow meter positioned downstream of the electrode arrangement to detect metered flow out of the electrolytic cell: and a strainer positioned to stop debris travelling downstream in water treated by the electrolytic cell and stop the debris from contacting or passing the flow meter.

(89) According to a 15.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 14.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the electrode arrangement is at least partially positioned within a chamber having a flow inlet and a flow outlet, wherein the strainer is positioned at the outlet of the chamber, and wherein the flow meter is positioned downstream of the strainer.

(90) According to a 16.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 15.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the strainer is accessible and removable from the biocide generating system via the chamber.

(91) According to a 17.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 14.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the strainer includes one or more cantilever latch arms.

(92) According to an 18.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 14.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the strainer includes a protruding hand hold.

(93) According to a 19.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 14.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the strainer is a secondary strainer, and wherein the system further includes a primary strainer positioned upstream of the electrode arrangement.

(94) According to a 20.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 19.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the primary strainer and the electrode arrangement are components of an integrated unit.

(95) According to a 21.sup.st example embodiment, there is provided the 19.sup.th example embodiment, wherein a mesh size of the primary strainer is smaller than a mesh size of the secondary strainer.

(96) According to a 22.sup.nd example embodiment, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through at least a first port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, the biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a flow path when water is being drawn through the first port into the water system, the biocide generating system comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water

source flows: a flow meter positioned to detect metered flow along the flow path: a first strainer positioned upstream of the electrode arrangement: and a second strainer positioned downstream of the first strainer and upstream of the flow meter to stop debris travelling downstream from the first strainer from contacting or passing the flow meter.

(97) According to a 23.sup.rd example embodiment, there is provided the 22.sup.nd example embodiment, wherein the flow meter is positioned upstream of the electrolytic cell.

(98) According to a 24.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 23.sup.rd example embodiment, wherein the flow meter is positioned downstream of the electrolytic cell.

(99) According to a 25.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided a biocide generating system for inhibiting bio-fouling within a water system of a watercraft, the water system being configured to draw water from a water source on which the watercraft is supported through each of a first port and a second port positioned in a body or hull of the watercraft, comprising: an electrode arrangement adapted to be incorporated as part of an electrolytic cell through which water drawn from the water source through each of the first and the second ports flows: a first strainer through which water drawn through the first port flows before reaching the electrode arrangement: a second strainer through which water drawn through the second port flows before reaching the electrode arrangement: a first recirculation conduit configured to feed water containing biocide generated by the electrolytic cell to the first strainer: and a second recirculation conduit configured to feed water containing biocide generated by the electrolytic cell to the second strainer.

(100) According to a 26.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 25.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the first recirculation conduit is further configured to discharge water containing biocide generated by the electrolytic cell through the first port: wherein the second recirculation conduit is configured to discharge water containing biocide through the second port: and wherein the biocide generating system further comprises a controllable pump usable to perform the drawing of the water through the first and second ports, and/or the feeding of the water containing biocide to the first and second strainers, and/or the discharging of the water containing biocide through the first and second ports, the controllable pump being operable in a forward mode in which the pump acts to draw water from the water source into the water system through the first port and a reverse mode in which the pump acts to draw water from the water source into the water system through the second port.

(101) According to a 27.sup.th example embodiment, there is provided the 26.sup.th example embodiment, wherein the first recirculation conduit is further configured to discharge water containing biocide generated by the electrolytic cell through the first port: wherein the second recirculation conduit is configured to discharge water containing biocide through the second port: and wherein the biocide generating system further comprises at least first and second controllable pumps that can be operatively coordinated to perform the drawing of the water through the first and second ports, and/or the feeding of the water containing biocide to the first and second strainers, and/or the discharging of the water containing biocide through the first and second ports, the first and second pumps being controllable in a cooperative fashion including a first mode in which the first pump is active and the second pump is idle and the first pump acts to draw water from the water source into the water system through the first port, and a second mode in which the second pump is active and the first pump is idle and the second pump acts to draw water from the water source into the water system through the second port.

(102) The various examples described above are provided by way of illustration only and should not be construed to limit the scope of the present disclosure. Those skilled in the art will readily recognize various modifications and changes that may be made with respect to the examples illustrated and described herein without departing from the true spirit and scope of the present disclosure.

## Claims

1. A biocide generating system, comprising: a pump, the pump defining an upstream side of the pump, a downstream side of the pump, and an upstream to downstream direction extending from the upstream side of the pump to the downstream side of the pump when the pump is operating and the biocide generating system is installed in a watercraft; an electrode arrangement configured to generate biocide, and positioned, relative to the upstream to downstream direction, downstream of a sea chest storage tank when the biocide generating system is installed in the watercraft; a conduit arrangement including a recirculation conduit; and a flow furcation component be positioned, relative to the upstream to downstream direction, downstream of the pump and upstream of a water system of the watercraft, the flow furcation component and conduit arrangement together being configured, by action of the pump when the biocide generating system is installed in the watercraft, to selectively direct water flowing through the system: to flow in a closed loop from the sea chest storage tank to the electrode arrangement, and to flow from the electrode arrangement back to the sea chest storage tank via the recirculation conduit of the watercraft without flowing to the water system, and to otherwise flow from the sea chest storage tank to the electrode arrangement, and to flow from the electrode arrangement into the water system.
2. The biocide generating system of claim 1, further comprising a strainer.
3. The biocide generating system of claim 2, wherein the strainer is positioned, relative to the upstream to downstream direction, upstream of the pump when the biocide generating system is installed in the watercraft.
4. The biocide generating system of claim 3, wherein the strainer and the electrode arrangement are a single integrated component.
5. The biocide generating system of claim 3, wherein the strainer and the electrode arrangement are standalone components.
6. The biocide generating system of claim 1, wherein the electrode arrangement is configured to generate chlorine or a chlorine derivative when current is supplied to the electrode arrangement and salt water is contacting the electrode arrangement.
7. The biocide generating system of claim 6, further comprising the water system, wherein the water system includes a heat exchanger.
8. The biocide generating system of claim 1, further comprising a controller configured to control a position of the flow furcation component.
9. The biocide generating system of claim 8, wherein the controller is configured to control operation of the electrode arrangement.
10. The biocide generating system of claim 9, wherein the controller is configured to control operation of the pump.
11. The biocide generating system of claim 8, wherein when the biocide generating system is installed in the watercraft the controller is configured to control the pump and the flow furcation component to pump water in the closed loop through the sea chest storage tank, the electrode arrangement and the recirculation conduit until a predetermined concentration of biocide in the water is reached.
12. The biocide generating system of claim 11, wherein when the biocide generating system is installed in the watercraft the controller is configured to control the pump and the flow furcation component to pump the water to the water system once the predetermined concentration of biocide in the water is reached.
13. The biocide generating system of claim 12, wherein when the biocide generating system is installed in the watercraft the controller is configured to determine a concentration of the biocide in the water.
14. The biocide generating system of claim 1, further comprising a control system configured to

dynamically vary a magnitude of electrical current supplied to the electrode arrangement in direct proportion to a rate of flow of the water past the electrode arrangement when the biocide generating system is installed in the watercraft.

15. A watercraft, comprising: a sea chest; a water system including a water reliant component; a port through a hull of the watercraft; and a biocide generating system defining an upstream to downstream direction corresponding to a direction of flow when water is being drawn into the biocide generating system from a water source through the port when the watercraft is buoyantly supported by the water source, the biocide generating system including: a pump; an electrode arrangement configured to generate the biocide and positioned downstream of the sea chest; a conduit arrangement including a recirculation conduit; and a flow furcation component positioned downstream of the pump and upstream of the water system, the flow furcation component and conduit arrangement together being configured, by action of the pump, to selectively direct: the water to flow from the sea chest to the electrode arrangement, and to flow from the electrode arrangement back to the sea chest via the recirculation conduit without flowing to the water system, and the water to otherwise flow from the sea chest to the electrode arrangement, and then flow from the electrode arrangement into the water system.

16. The watercraft of claim 15, wherein the port is defined by a through-hull fitting of the watercraft.

17. The watercraft of claim 15, wherein the biocide generating system further includes a strainer.

18. The watercraft of claim 17, wherein the strainer is positioned upstream of the pump.

19. The watercraft of claim 17, wherein the strainer and the electrode arrangement are a single integrated component.

20. The watercraft of claim 15, further comprising a control system configured to dynamically vary a magnitude of electrical current supplied to the electrode arrangement in direct proportion to a rate of flow of the water past the electrode arrangement.

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