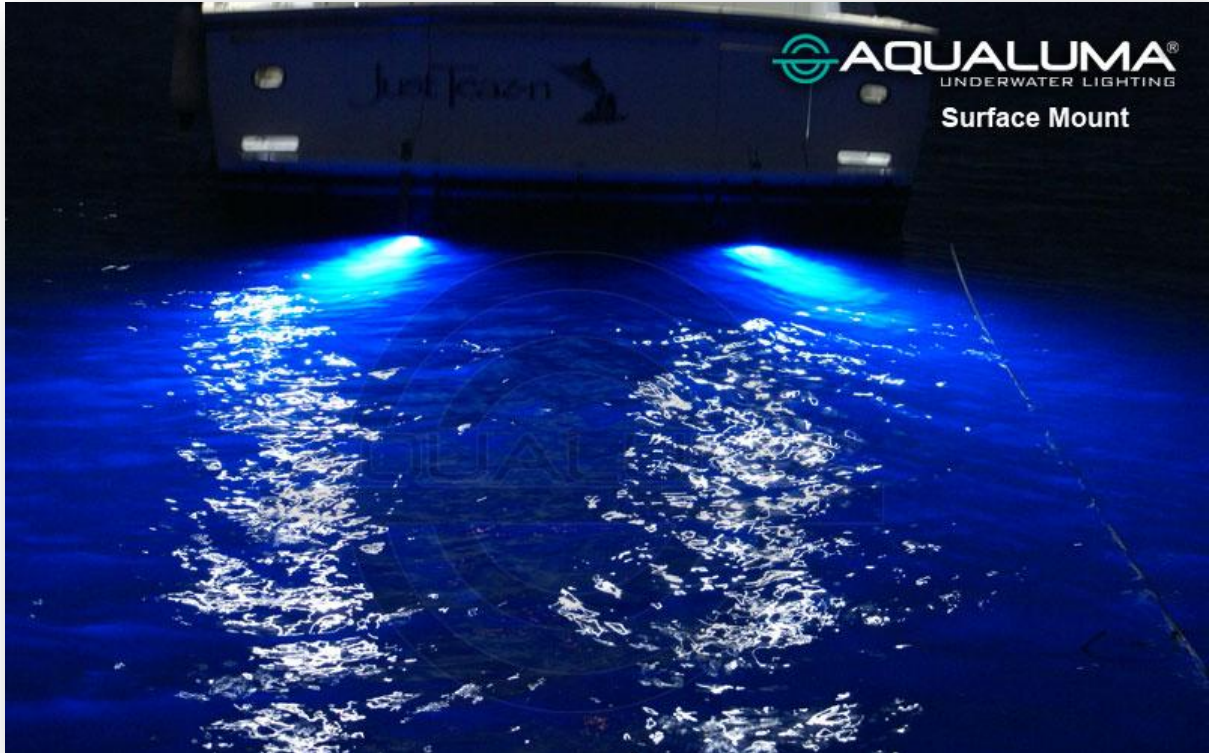


# LIGHT UP YOUR BOAT

Nowadays, it's nearly impossible to walk down a dock at night and not see several boats with their waterlines ablaze with light.



Underwater lights took the boating world by storm several years ago, with manufacturers producing many different styles and sizes using every colour in the rainbow. It's almost become a fashion statement of sorts to have your underwater lights match the lights onboard.

When the first underwater lights hit the scene, many weren't inclined to join the crowd. The first lights didn't seem to be engineered with service or maintenance issues in mind. Ever have to change out an old swimming-pool light where you either had to drain the pool to the bottom of the light or hope the light had a long umbilical cord so you could get it out of the water or change the bulb? Well, the early generation of underwater lights required a haul-out to change the bulb, an expensive proposition at best since most of us only require a haul-out once a year. Another problem was that the heat build-up in the early units shortened their life dramatically, especially if you accidentally turned them on with the boat out of the water.

The good news is that technology moved with the demand of the popularity of the lights, and the issues that plagued those early models have been addressed and significantly improved. When you see the hull of a 220-footer at anchor at Raffles Marina lit up with a light every 15 feet or so, one must admit it was very impressive. More recently, you can smaller boats with their lights pointed straight out night fishing — it made me think that I'd probably have to install some if we spent more time fishing at night.



Aqualuma makes a wide range of lighting products to cover many different applications. It produces its lights using an injection-molded transparent polymer for the housings that is more than 250 times stronger than glass. The special polymer is also lightweight, scratch resistant and protected from UV rays. As an added bonus, you don't have to tie Aqualuma's products to the vessel's bonding system like you have to do when installing a light with an alloy or bronze housing.

Aqualuma packages its LED lights in single, triple and six-light sets in through-hull configurations. The company's new Tri-Series uses six LEDs that you can mix up by using any two different colors offered: white, blue or green. Naturally, the one- and three-series lights are also offered in any of the color options.

Aqualuma seals all of its surface-mount lights in a thermally conductive polymer housing with two-wire connection. These little surface lights pack a big punch, however, sporting nine high-powered LEDs. The surface-mount option provides a quick alternative for boats where through-hull lights can't be practically installed. Aqualuma also produces spreader lights, dock lights and a unique trim-tab light that mounts directly to your tabs if they hang out the back. All of Aqualuma's lights come in both 12- and 24-volt models.

Just as with any major purchase, shop around to find the right underwater lighting system for your needs — whether you just want something that looks sharp on the dock or want to try to attract more fish to your transom while on the water at night. Aqualuma have a light for these purpose.

Over the years, the local agent Blue Water Marine Supplies has installed more than 200 Aqualuma lights for various boats in Singapore, from a 25-foot sport-fishing boat to a 115-footer Mega-yacht. For more product information, please visit [www.aqualuma.com](http://www.aqualuma.com) or email your lighting needs to [bluewater@singapore.com](mailto:bluewater@singapore.com)

