

Industry: Marine

End User: Wilson Ship Management, Norway

Application: Hatch Cover Wheels

Thordon Grade: ThorPlas-Blue

Date of Original Installation: Autumn 2020 (on the *Wilson Weser*)

About:

Wilson Ship Management operates Europe's largest short sea fleet of a more than 130 general cargo vessels ranging from 1500-8500 dwt. Approximately 110 of the vessels are also owned by Wilson. The number of owned vessels in their fleet places them among the largest shipping operators within the European short sea segment.

Challenge:

Wilson was having issues with the wheel bearings on the hatch cover on their dry cargo vessels. The standard bearing material for this application is bronze, however if the crew is not continually greasing these bearings, a time consuming and messy process, they can wear and seize up. The result of bearing failure in the hatch covers is an increase in maintenance time and associated costs.

Solution:

Thordon's authorized distributor in Norway, DUWEL Group, contacted Wilson Ship Management and ThorPlas-Blue was proposed as a solution in this application. ThorPlas-Blue is a self-lubricating bearing that doesn't require grease, so the risk of bearing seizure is eliminated. ThorPlas-Blue also handles edge loading significantly better than bronze. Furthermore, with ThorPlas-Blue, customers see less wear on the shaft, resulting in significant savings from avoiding shaft repair or replacement. Not only will ThorPlas-Blue ensure hatch covers open and close smoothly, but it will also prevent damage to cargo during loading and unloading.

Result:

The first hatch cover wheel installation of ThorPlas-Blue was on the *Wilson Weser* in 2020. Wilson Ship Management has been following this closely and the feedback has been positive. Based on the success on the first vessel, ThorPlas-Blue was also installed in the hatch covers on: *Wilson Wisla* (2021), *Wilson Borg* (2022), *Wilson Leith* (2022), *Wilson Tees* (2022), *Wilson Alster* (2022), *Wilson Goole* (2022), and *Wilson Monsoon* (2022).



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