

**Industry:** Marine

**Application:** Shipyard Marine Railway/Patent Slip

**End User:** Comeau Marine Railway Ltd.

**Thordon Grade:** ThorPlas-Blue

**Date of Original Installation:** 2018

### About:

Comeau Marine Railway Ltd. operates a year-round shipyard dry dock railway facility that can accommodate vessels up to 600 tonnes and is located adjacent to the Meteghan wharf on the southwest coast of Nova Scotia. It operates year-round to maintain and service much of the inshore fishing fleet as well as the parent company Comeau's Sea Foods Ltd.'s fishing fleet.

### Challenge:

The marine railway, or patent slip, uses a large cradle on rolling stock to hoist vessels out of the water up an inclined rail track. Over the past 40 years, the railway has used all types of bearings, including phenolics, bronze, Lubrite®, even Thordon's XL and SXL bearings. Two vessels are routinely loaded at the same time which meant that the entire load capacity was concentrated over a longitudinally central section of the cradle, requiring the use of extreme performance bearing materials. The marine railway is also located in the Bay of Fundy, an area on the southwest coast of Nova Scotia, Canada that is noted for its extremely high tide. The tidewater brings a large amount of abrasive sand and sediment which frequently flush down the estuary and end up covering the tracks and wheels.



### Solution:

In 2018, based on the recommendation by Thordon's authorized distributor in Nova Scotia, Avalon Marine, Comeau made the decision to install 110mm (4.3in) diameter ThorPlas-Blue bearings in the critical areas of high loading wheels of the ship cradle. Thom Hofmann, President, Avalon Marine, said "While the earlier XL and SXL bearings performed as well as could be expected, the cradle needed something more robust. We considered a number of Thordon options and after considering the commercial implications, the owners opted to use ThorPlas-Blue material as it was the best option."

Avalon designed the bearings and supplied the material as rough moulded tubes so the shipyard could quickly and easily machine and install the bearings between drydockings.

### Result:

Commenting on the success is Joe MacDougall, General Manager, Comeau Marine Railway along with his assistant, Brian Amirault: "We haven't had any issue as yet, all is good. The ThorPlas-Blue bearings have been in use now for a couple of years and, so far, the material has not failed, despite the uneven loads, sand and debris."



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