



**APPLICATION OVERVIEW:**  
iglide® plastic bushings in rust-proof roller chains on the high seas.

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# CASE STUDY

## FISH PROCESSING IN THE OPEN SEA



### Plastic bushings for roller chains in fish-head processing and slaughter machinery

Nowadays, freshly-caught fish are typically processed directly on-board fishing trawlers. One sophisticated fish-head processing and slaughter machine processes 32 fish per minute.

The machine components are therefore exposed to an aggressive mixture of seawater and blood. Lubrication- and maintenance-free iglide® plastic bushings are used in the rust-proof roller chains used to drive the main and auxiliary equipment.

### Chain joint benefits from better tribology

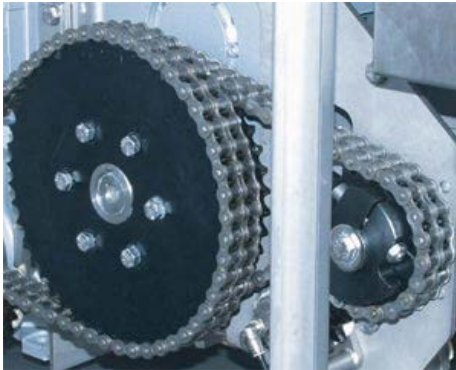
Below the deck, 1.5 tons of heavy machinery processes fish in two shifts. The whole thing happens in sea conditions; with multidirectional accelerations up to three times that of the acceleration of gravity acting directly on the machines and their components.



As maintenance on the chain drive is not allowed by the limited personnel on-board, special rust-proof roller chains are used. These replace conventional roller chains, which wore out after 400 to 450 hours and had to be replaced.

The new solution increased operating time to over 3,000 hours without the chains requiring re-lubrication.

### **Optimized materials**



The enormous increase in service life - without maintenance - for the roller chain is due to its special joint structure. A high-performance iglide® plastic bushings from igus® was integrated and significantly enhance the tribology of the chain joint. The iglide® bushings distinguish themselves with an extremely high wear resistance, low coefficient of friction, high compressive strength, as well as chemical resistance. In addition, they are maintenance-free and insensitive to dirt.

### **More product information**

[iglide® plain bearing - overview](#)

### **More application examples from different industries**

[iglide® plastic bushing applications](#)