

# Rope Made with Dyneema® Secures Fishermen's Livelihoods

**Bablu was fast asleep when he took the first call from Raju, his skipper of the fishing boat "Srinivasa". It was fishing off the coast of Visakapatnam (commonly referred to as Vizag) in the Indian Ocean, an area of coast that is renowned for its extreme weather and huge gas reserves.**

It was an early morning in January 2011, and Raju was planning to return from a week long voyage. An hour earlier he had ordered the last haul of the trip, and he was going through his plans for the day. The currents were heavy and with limited fuel in stock, he took the decision to turn back and sail along with the currents and return to

the Kakinada base. Suddenly his thoughts were interrupted by a huge jerk as the boat was lifted in the air.

Raju quickly gained control of the vessel and realized that the net was stuck somewhere on the seabed. Quickly he released additional rope to slacken the load on the boat. The right trawl door had lost its momentum during the change in direction and had slipped under a rocky surface, and the other soon followed.

Raju was worried as the warp lines had only been on trial for the last 3 months, and so had probably not been previously exposed to such extreme conditions. Thus, he made the decision to call Bablu using the very weak signal still available on his mobile phone. Bablu, half asleep,





reassured Raju about the new Plateena rope being used for the warp lines: “Don’t worry,” he said, “it’s made with Dyneema® and is stronger than steel.”

However, Raju was soon to become more concerned. The boat was drifting with the strong sea currents and he was finding it difficult to maintain its position. They had already released most of the rope and only a few more meters were still left on the winch. Something had to be done, and quickly.



After assessing the situation, and following discussions with the crew, Raju decided to use the power of the engine to release the net. It was a significant decision. If the rope were to snap, the net would be lost forever. On the other hand, remaining ensnared on the seabed could result in the boat either sinking or capsizing.

Following two initial attempts, Raju gained more confidence in the strength of the Plateena rope, and so, on the third attempt, he gave full throttle and suddenly there was another jolt. He was sure the rope had given way, but to his surprise, the cause of the jolt had actually been the center pole used to hold the pulleys, which had come out of its joint that was bolted on both the sides with 2.5 inch nuts within a metal frame.

That it was the fixings for the center pole that were more likely to come away before the rope was of course entirely unexpected, and it left Raju with no other option than to either wait for assistance or to actually sever the rope himself.

A mobile phone with sufficient signal reception was once more sought amongst the crew before Raju called Bablu again to inform about this latest development. Bablu could scarcely believe it himself that the rope had remained intact, and that it was the central pole that had become damaged. He immediately advised Raju to stay put and started making arrangements for a rescue vessel.

Overall, it took 8 hours for a new boat to reach Raju and safely disentangle the net from the seabed - all carried out without any damage to the rope.

Bablu recalls: "I remember Mr Agashe, GM-R&D, Garware-Wall Ropes Ltd. stating that this rope is stronger than steel wire, and now I can believe it!" He adds further: "If we had been using steel wire, I am sure the rope would have failed within 2 hours and we would have lost the nets forever. Unbelievably the Plateena rope fought against the stormy weather for 8 hours and still remained intact. I am thankful to this wonderful rope which saved my expensive fishing gear."

### **Proud to have Plateena onboard**

The crew on the boat are also happy to welcome Plateena rope onboard the "Srinivasa" as it requires no lubrication with grease or oil, leaving the deck clean and the crew members free from the laborious duty of greasing the rope after each voyage. "I can even afford to wear ironed clothes on the boat!", commented one of the crew.

Raju became a local hero upon his return, and Bablu a proud owner of the boat that everyone in the neighborhood wanted to see after hearing about the Plateena rope that had saved the fishing net.

Veer Raju, Sales Manager, Garware-Wall Ropes Ltd., comments: "I currently dread attending sales enquiries because, following the incident with the "Srinivasa", all the local fishermen want to change to Plateena ropes. However we wish to complete numerous tests on this rope in real conditions before making it commercially available in mid 2012. I am genuinely looking forward to the launch - it's going to be fun."



According to Sanjay Raut, VP Garware-Wall Ropes Ltd.: "We are delighted that in the trial phase itself the rope has already proven its value. However before the commercial launch of the product, we wish to complete our testing at various bases and at various depths of trawling." He continues: "In fact Mr Agashe and his team had already carried out extensive testing on these ropes to ensure extreme performance in the toughest of sea conditions before sending out the rope for trials. We all know he stops at nothing but the best. "

Rakesh Gaikwad of DSM adds: "The reports of this incident did not surprise me. Ropes made with Dyneema® often impress users with their capabilities. Indeed, I remember having met Raju 4 months earlier when he had started to question the performance of such a lightweight rope.

However, as early as during our first voyage together, I could see his confidence in the rope grow after each set. Today, I see a completely different Raju, who never stops talking about Plateena, the rope made with Dyneema®"

### **About Garware-Wall Ropes Ltd. (GWRL)**

GWRL is a leading cordage manufacturing company in India that has shared a close bond with Indian fishermen for the last three decades, becoming a household name in the fishing community. The fishing industry looks to suppliers such as GWRL as the providers of new technology that help keep fishing a profitable business. Plateena rope made with Dyneema® is one of the most sought after product ranges in the international market along with the Sapphire, Maxima and Maxiflex range of products, also from GWRL.

GWRL utilizes its unique network of rural homemakers in the surrounding villages around Wai for fabrication of net and rope articles. This provides home-based employment to around 1000 underprivileged families.

### **About Bablu**

Bablu is a true representation of Indian fishermen. He owns two small trawlers and takes care of his crew as a part of an extended family. Bablu is currently building a new 60ft boat with a 440 HP engine and has already specified Plateena ropes for the vessel.

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