

## CASESTUDY

## Cargo Theft Recovery

Stolen seafood shipment  
recovered intact in Florida

## Incident

On Sept. 29, 2013, a shipment of valuable frozen seafood, routed from Massachusetts to California, was reported stolen by the driver from Jackson, Miss.

The FreightWatch Command & Control Center (C3) received a call from the client reporting the shipment theft. The C3 engaged the FreightWatch Emergency Response Team (ERT), which reviewed the tracking technology embedded in the load and determined its location in Miami. The ERT immediately escalated the theft to the Miami-Dade Police Department.

## Recovery

FreightWatch's law enforcement liaison reached out to his law enforcement network to notify them of the theft and gather information relevant to the incident, including contacting a local FreightWatch risk management officer (RMO), a former Miami-Dade police officer, who located the shipment while en route. The FreightWatch RMO engaged with local authorities, keeping them up-to-date on the exact movements of the shipment.

Within less than two hours from the time the FreightWatch ERT began coordinating recovery efforts, the local authorities stopped and arrested the driver, and recovered the entire shipment. Using the data from the tracking device, FreightWatch was able to show police the stolen load's trail revealing that the driver handed over the shipment to an accomplice in Georgia, who transported it to Florida.

Transporting frozen freight requires significant diligence in the best of situations as an unforeseen delay can spoil an entire shipment. FreightWatch monitored the shipment after it was impounded, as the covert tracking device was equipped with a temperature sensor to collect and transmit real-time temperature in addition to location data. The ERT continued to work with the client to make sure they were fully

informed and would be alerted if the temperature inside the reefer went out of acceptable range. The shipment was released later the same day, and FreightWatch continued to track it without incident to its final destination.

In this case, the driver was unaware that FreightWatch covert tracking technology was in place. FreightWatch covert tracking technology and ERT coordination have a proven track record of recovering stolen cargo.

## Trends

Shipments can be stolen by drivers working with cargo thieves. The FreightWatch Supply Chain Intelligence Center reports thefts in which drivers were complicit have increased more than 30 percent during the first three quarters of 2013, from thefts with the same modus operandi in all of 2012.

## FWI

FreightWatch International has been in the business of securing cargo since 1998, offering logistics security and supply chain visibility services through compliance monitoring of high-value shipments and risk mitigation programs utilizing industry-leading intelligence and covert tracking technology.