Within ports and harbors, there are a variety of areas that have unique security challenges. Fishing markets are a significant feature of such environments, so they need an intelligent video surveillance system that can enhance the security operator’s experience. The system should include cameras that offer sharp, wide-ranging views, and a video management system (VMS) to manage and analyze critical forensic data.

Peterhead Port Authority is one of the UK’s most versatile ports. It provides all-weather, deep-water berthing facilities, and has served the oil and gas sector for over 40 years. Peterhead also supports a variety of industries: oil and gas, fishing, renewable energy, decommissioning, and leisure.
Case Study: Peterhead Fish Market

As one of Europe’s premier fishing ports, Peterhead offers a center of excellence for fishing fleets by providing modern quayside services, including a new state-of-the-art fish market.

Captain John Pirie Forman is the Harbor Master at Peterhead Port Authority, where he is tasked with looking after all marine activities. He also ensures that each vessel is navigating and berthing in a safe manner.

Forman mentioned that Peterhead Port had “recently completed the £51 million inner harbour development and new fish market project”, where Pelco cameras and VMS have been installed throughout the new facility.

The new fish market houses approximately forty Pelco cameras managed by VideoXpert Professional VMS. Most of the deployed cameras in this area are from the Evolution camera line for an expansive, eye-level surveillance experience.

“The idea behind installing Pelco surveillance systems at Peterhead is to secure the premises, including the fish market and all port users,” Forman said. “It provides our stakeholders and port users with a reassurance that the products are in a safe and secure environment...”

A security office was built within the fish market for viewing the entire camera setup, and security operators check the video on a daily basis. This ensures that any issues are quickly identified and resolved while maintaining a high level of security that Peterhead requires.

“The security office in the fish market covers both indoor and outdoor areas, so if there are any incidents or issues, it can be traced and played back on the camera system,” Forman said.

The market has made sure to tailor its surveillance solutions to fit the unique needs of the market by leveraging fixed cameras, which were installed in the outdoor areas. In addition, the indoor area has been outfitted with 360-degree cameras for total floor coverage.

When asked why Peterhead ultimately chose Pelco as their video surveillance provider, Forman said that Pelco met all of their requirements at the time of installation.

A distinct challenge with overseeing the security of such a large fish market is managing multiple video feeds simultaneously for hours on end. Conventionally, security operators were hired to manually oversee the monitors and check for any signs of crime or other suspicious activity, though this can lend itself to human error.

For example, if an operator happens to leave the room for just a few minutes and a security breach happens during that time, it has a chance of getting overlooked. This can lead to substantial losses in revenue, since a multitude of industries rely on ports like Peterhead Port Authority as a safe place to conduct business.

VideoXpert was chosen to manage the captured activity at Peterhead for its ability to store the data for up to 30 days, which enables operators to revisit any captured video in case of an incident that requires investigation.

“We had one issue where some fish were mistakenly misplaced,” Forman said. “Thankfully, we were able to trace and recover [them]...”

Forman is particularly happy with their choice in VMS because “the resolution is perfect with playback footage as good as live.”

Since installing Pelco’s video surveillance system, Peterhead has benefited from the expanded scope of coverage as a result.

“Peterhead Port Authority is satisfied with the Pelco system,” Forman said.

Learn more about Pelco’s full range of video surveillance solutions here.