

payment represents, the deductions made for the fisherman's portion of the unemployment insurance contributions, and (when divisors are used) the kind and quantity of fish purchased.

Benefit

Generally speaking, fishermen will be restricted to receiving benefit during the seasonal benefit period from the beginning of January to the middle of April. For qualification the rules regarding seasonal benefit class A will apply, i.e., there must be 15 contribution weeks subsequent to the most recent Saturday preceding the 31st day of March immediately before the day on which the fisherman makes a claim. The duration is one week's benefit for every two contribution weeks, and the minimum duration is 10 weeks. Any contribution from insurable employment, whether fishing or some other kind of employment, if made within the period mentioned, may be counted for qualification, rate and duration, so far as seasonal benefit of this kind is concerned.

In order to apply the above rule and determine who is a fisherman and whether he should be restricted to receiving seasonal benefit, some way must be provided for readily identifying a fisherman as such when he makes a claim. This will be done by tagging a claimant as a fisherman if five or more of his contribution weeks in the last 52 weeks show fishing contributions only. This is the most practicable way of identifying a fisherman as such under a scheme in which contributions from all insurable employment are taken into account. It is one of the reasons why specially marked fishing stamps are needed. The number has been set at five with the idea that persons who engage in fishing on a casual basis for up to four weeks in a year will not be treated as fishermen. The number of contribution weeks, in the test suggested, cannot be set much higher; otherwise many persons who really are fishermen would not be identified as such and would be allowed to qualify for regular benefit when they should properly be restricted to seasonal benefit.

The principal reason for restricting fishermen to benefit in the seasonal benefit period is that during the active fishing season it is impossible to determine when they are genuinely unemployed. A great deal of a fisherman's work, even when ashore, is part of his fishing operations. The general rule, therefore, has to be that during the active fishing season fishermen are not deemed to be unemployed. However, during the off-season when a fisherman is on claim and in receipt of fishermen's benefit, there may be occasional days when he can go fishing, and he may also take the occasion to repair his boat or other fishing equipment. Although such work is ordinarily regarded as part of a fisherman's normal fishing operations, it will be disregarded during the off-season and will not affect the fisherman's status from the standpoint of being regarded as unemployed or available for work. Any earnings he obtains from work done at this period will, of course, be taken into account and, to the extent that they exceed the allowable scale in section 56 of the act, his benefit for that week will be reduced. The ordinary rule, under which a person is not considered unemployed if he has worked the full working week, will not apply to a fisherman during the seasonal benefit period, as regards the amount of time he has spent in fishing.

There are two exceptions to the rule whereby fishermen are restricted to benefit in the seasonal benefit period. The first applies to a person who, though initially tagged as a fisherman, has enough non-fishing contributions to qualify for regular benefit without counting any of his fishing contributions. Many fishermen now work in insurable employment during parts of the year when they are not fishing. Some are able to qualify for regular benefit at the present time. It is not right that such fishermen should be put in a less favourable position by reason of the extension of coverage to fishing. They