

provides for disregarding the contract of service between the fisherman and his helper and treating them for purposes of contributions as if they were fishing on shares. The buyer will be responsible for making contributions in respect of both of them, treating them for contribution purposes as if the head fisherman had two shares and the helper one share. However, this applies only during the period of actual fishing. For any period prior to or after the period of active fishing the helper, if he is employed on wages, must be insured by the person so employing him.

Earnings

There is no problem in determining earnings for fishermen who are wage earners as the ordinary rules in the act and regulations will apply. However, some fishermen who work on shares and also lone workers present a special problem in that the gross value of their sales of fish covers expenses they have had to incur as well as their net return from fishing. To make contributions on the basis of the gross value would result in over-insurance.

It is therefore proposed that either the actual expenses, if known, or 30 per cent of the value of the catch will be deducted in order to determine the net earnings in the case of lone fishermen and in the case of fishermen working on shares where expenses have not already been deducted before reckoning each fisherman's share.

Where the share arrangement is known to the buyer who is acting as employer, the apportionment of the earnings thus determined will be no problem. However, a special rule will apply to cases where there is either no share arrangement or the arrangement, if it exists, is not disclosed to the buyer. In such case, the skipper is treated as having two shares and each of the other members one share. This division is fairly common in fact on account of the skipper's greater responsibility.

A special rule will apply to organizations such as cooperatives which pay a fisherman regularly at the time of delivery but pay a lesser amount than the expected market price. The amount actually paid or credited to the fisherman at the time of delivery may be as high as 95 per cent or as low as 60 per cent of the expected sale price. In many cases, the adjustment is not made till six months or a year later. Therefore, the cooperative will be expected to make a reasonable estimate of the market price, after deducting the amount of operating expenses chargeable to the fisherman, and make contributions on the basis of the estimated amount of earnings determined in this way.

Contributions

As regards dealings in fresh fish, employers will, generally speaking, apply the procedures already set out in the act for determining the number and rate of the contributions and the periods for which they should be recorded. In addition, there will be a special procedure for determining the number of contributions in respect of sales of cured fish.

Where possible, contributions will be recorded in the ordinary insurance book as under the regular scheme. It is believed that some 75 per cent to 80 per cent of fishermen deal fairly regularly with the same buyer throughout the period of a particular fishery—in fishermen's parlance "fishery" here means the cod fishing season or halibut fishing season and so on—and will therefore be able to lodge their insurance books with that buyer for the purpose of stamping. Where fishermen deal on a casual basis with a number of buyers special insurance cards or duplicate books will have to be used. Although contributions will be made by means of stamps of the same weekly denominations as those used under the regular scheme for earnings in the corresponding wage brackets, it will be necessary to use stamps specially