

where coverage is impracticable for such reasons as the slight extent of the fishing employment, the location, the family relationship.

(2) Where there is no actual employer, the first buyer of the catch will be treated as the employer.

(3) No upper earnings limit will apply to fishermen, on account of the great variety of ways in which they are paid and the impossibility for the employer of knowing when such limit has been exceeded.

(4) In the case of a fisherman who is a sharesman or lone worker, his earnings for contribution purposes may be determined by one general rule under which a prescribed percentage of the gross value of his catch will be assumed to be expenses.

(5) Where the effort of a fisherman is distributed between catching and curing his fish before sale, the number of contribution weeks (in the absence of proper time records) will be determined by the application of prescribed divisors to the quantity of fish that he sells.

That is cured fish.

To continue with the brief:

(6) Specially marked stamps must be used to record fishing contributions in order that these may be distinguished from contributions made in respect of other insurable employment. This is essential in order

- (a) to identify fishermen when they make claims for benefit;
- (b) to carry out the benefit rules mentioned in paragraph (7) following;
- (c) to facilitate accounting for the income to the fund from fishing contributions.

(7) Generally speaking, fishermen will be restricted to receiving benefit in the seasonal benefit period January 1st to mid-April. This is necessitated by the impossibility of verifying the occurrence of unemployment for fishermen during the active fishing season. They will qualify for seasonal benefit in the same way as class A seasonal benefit claimants, by having 15 or more contributions since the 31st of March preceding. Any contributions, whether from fishing or other insurable employment, will count for this purpose. However, ordinary benefit may be paid to a fisherman irrespective of the time of year when he becomes unemployed

- (a) if he can qualify for ordinary benefit without taking account (for qualifying purposes) of his fishing contributions, or
- (b) if he is ordinarily employed in fishing on a year-round basis and it can be clearly shown that he has been laid off for lack of work and also become involuntarily unemployed.

The following pages explain in more detail the reasons for the special rules that have to be applied to fishermen in order to bring them under the unemployment insurance scheme with full integration of contributions and benefit, as far as possible.

Coverage

The plan contemplates covering all fishermen, irrespective of whether they are wage earners, sharesmen or lone workers. This is to obviate the difficulties and anomalies that would arise from partial coverage, in view of the extent to which fishermen change their status from one period to another, e.g., from fishing on shares as one of a group during the cod fishing season to fishing by themselves during the lobster season.