

# Notice to fishing-boat workers!

You might not be eligible for unemployment benefits.



**Employment  
Security  
Department**  
WASHINGTON STATE

## You are not automatically covered for unemployment benefits if:

- You work on a boat with fewer than 10 workers engaged in catching fish or other aquatic animals, and
- You are paid by receiving a share of the boat's catch. (This includes all work on the boat, including maintenance, repair, tendering, etc.)

## You can use wages to qualify for unemployment benefits if:

- You were paid wages instead of – or in addition to – a share of the catch, or
- If the boat had 10 or more workers.

To see if you qualify for unemployment benefits, apply online at [ESD.WA.GOV](http://ESD.WA.GOV) or call 800-318-6022 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to speak with a claims specialist.

Visit WorkSource to find all the FREE resources you need to find a job. These include workshops, computers, copiers, phones, fax machines, Internet access, and job listings. Log onto [WorkSourceWA.com](http://WorkSourceWA.com) to find the nearest office.

## Notice to employers

### Employers may provide unemployment insurance if they wish.

Employers can choose to cover a boat's crew for unemployment benefits by submitting a Voluntary Election Form, which must be approved by the Employment Security Department.

Find the form at [ESD.WA.GOV](http://ESD.WA.GOV). Enter "voluntary election" in the Search box.

Employers can contact Employment Security at [status@esd.wa.gov](mailto:status@esd.wa.gov) for more information.

---

Visit [ESD.WA.GOV](http://ESD.WA.GOV) and click "Find a rule or a law" (bottom of the homepage) to read the law (RCW 50.04.170 and WAC 192-310-100).

The Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance services for limited English proficient individuals are available free of charge. Washington Relay Service: 711

ESD.WA.GOV