After July 28, 2013, 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., if your pay is based only on a share of the catch.)

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.

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.

Visit esd.wa.gov and click “Laws & regulations” (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 and provider of programs and services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to people with disabilities. Auxiliary aids may include telecommunication devices (TTY) for hearing- or speech-impaired individuals.