

Share fishermen

Rules for working while
receiving Jobseeker's Allowance

jobcentreplus

Part of the Department for Work and Pensions



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What is a share fisherman?

A share fisherman is someone whose total pay, or part of their pay, is a share of a fishing boat's earnings or profit.

There are different rules for share fishermen who want to claim Jobseeker's Allowance.

Share fishermen pay a higher rate of self-employed (Class 2) National Insurance to help them qualify for contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

What do I need to know?

Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance

If you are a share fisherman who gets contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, there are special rules for your type of work and earnings.

- The normal '16 hours of work' rule, which says you must not work 16 hours or more a week to be entitled to contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, does not apply to hours in which you are working as a share fisherman. This is because of your different work patterns – a single fishing trip can last more than 16 hours.
- You can earn £20 a week without affecting your contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance. Your benefit might be affected if you also have earnings from other work.

- We will change your benefit each week, based on any earnings you may have in that week (not the week you receive your earnings).

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

The different rules for share fishermen getting contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance do not apply to income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

If you are self-employed, we will use an average of your hours of work when working out your benefit.

If you work 16 hours or more a week on average, or if your partner works 24 hours or more a week, you cannot get income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

How do I find out more?

If you want to know more about the rules for share fishermen, contact Jobcentre Plus.

You can find our contact details:

- in the phone book, or
- online at www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

If you are looking for work, you can search our list of jobs online at www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Or you can call us on 0845 6060 234 (textphone 0845 6055 255) to find out what jobs are available.

A Welsh language service is available on 0845 6067 890 (textphone 0845 6044 022).

Lines are open between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday, and between 9am and 1pm on Saturdays.

Call charges

From 1 August 2007, calls to 0845 numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 4p per minute with a 6p call set up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company or a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Calls from mobile phones can cost up to 40p per minute, so check the cost of calls with your service provider.

Textphones

The textphone numbers we provide are for people who find it hard to speak or hear clearly. If you do not have a textphone, some libraries or citizens advice bureaus may have one. Textphones do not receive text messages from mobile phones.

Important information about this leaflet

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of November 2007.

It is possible that some of the information is oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

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