



REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

USE OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN THE
COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

Prepared by the
EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
June 30, 2026

Report covering time period of January 1, 2025,
through December 31, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Employment Development Department (EDD) is pleased to present this annual report to the Legislature on the use of Unemployment Insurance (UI) in the commercial fishing industry. This report satisfies the requirements identified in section 2783(g)(3) of the California Labor Code, added by Assembly Bill 5 (Chapter 296, Statutes of 2019) and amended by Assembly Bill 1514 (Chapter 305, Statutes of 2025).

A. Report Data Requirements

This legislative report covers the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, and includes the following statutorily required data elements:

1. The number of commercial fishers who applied for UI benefits.
2. The number of commercial fishers who had a UI claim disputed.
3. The number of commercial fishers who had a UI claim denied.
4. The number of commercial fishers who received UI benefits.

The report also includes the amount of benefits paid to the identified commercial fishers during this time period.

B. Background

The UI program provides weekly benefit payments for workers, including commercial fishers, who lose their job through no fault of their own. The UI program is a unique federal-state program created by federal law and administered by EDD under federal and state laws. It is financed by unemployment program tax contributions from employers. When the UI program was established as a part of the Social Security Act of 1935, it offered for the first time an economic line of defense against the effects of unemployment, assisting not only the individuals but also the local communities. Through a system of payments made directly to unemployed workers, UI helps ensure that at least some of life's necessities, most notably food, shelter, and clothing, can be met while unemployed individuals seek new work.

C. Unemployment Insurance Commercial Fishers Data

The following Commercial Fishers UI Statistics table provides the legally mandated information for the calendar year 2025.

Commercial Fishers UI Statistics

From January 1 – December 31, 2025

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. The Number who Applied for UI Benefits ¹ | 269 |
| 2. The Number of Claims Disputed ² | 3 |
| 3. The Number of Claims Denied ³ | 1 |
| 4. The Number who Received UI Benefits ⁴ | 229 |
| 5. The Total Amount of UI Benefits Paid | \$1,506,515 |

¹Represents unique individuals who applied for UI benefits during the reporting timeframe of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, identified as having worked for an employer in the commercial fishing industry and/or had a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code of 114111 *Finfish Fishing* or 114112 *Shellfish Fishing*. The same number of individuals applied for benefits in calendar years 2024 and 2025.

²Represents unique individuals who filed for UI benefits and whose claim required EDD to conduct a wage audit to determine whether an employer/employee relationship existed with a commercial fishing industry employer and whether the wages were usable to establish a UI claim.

³Represents unique individuals who were determined not to be employees via EDD's wage audit (subset of Item 2).

⁴Represents unique individuals identified as commercial fishers who *applied for UI benefits* (see Item 1) and received at least one week of UI benefits during the reporting timeframe of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. There were 40 individuals who applied for benefits but did not receive them. Some of these individuals never certified for benefits while others were disqualified for reasons other than the employment relationship cited in footnotes 2 and 3.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT