



REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Use of Unemployment Insurance in the Commercial Fishing Industry

**AS MANDATED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 5
(CHAPTER 296, STATUTES OF 2019)**

Prepared by the

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

March 1, 2024

**Report covering time period of January 1, 2023, through December 31,
2023**

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 is being submitted in accordance with section 2783(g)(3) of the California Labor Code added by Assembly Bill 5 (Chapter 296, Statutes of 2019), and amended by Assembly Bill 2955 (Chapter 443, Statutes of 2022).

A. Report Data Requirements

This legislative report covers the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, 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 UI 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 Commercial Fishers Unemployment Claim Data table on the next page provides the legally mandated information for the calendar year 2023.

Commercial Fishers UI Statistics

From January 1 – December 31, 2023

1. The Number who Applied for UI Benefits ¹	284
2. The Number of Claims Disputed ²	2
3. The Number of Claims Denied ³	1
4. The Number who Received UI Benefits ⁴	238
5. The Total Amount of UI Benefits Paid	\$1,763,160

¹Represents unique individuals who applied for UI benefits during the reporting timeframe of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, 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*.

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, 2023, through December 31, 2023. There were 46 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