

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

The different rules that apply to share fishermen claiming contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance do not apply if they claim income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

Self-employed people (including share fishermen) have their hours of work averaged out, even if they are not working when they claim. If you work 16 hours or more a week on average, or if your partner works 24 hours or more, you cannot get income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

Your client adviser can give you more information about income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

This leaflet is available in large print, in Braille and on audio cassette. Contact your local Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office for more details.



How to claim

You can claim Jobseeker's Allowance at your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office.

The claim form

Your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office will give you a **JSA1** claim form to fill in.

If you only claim contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, you only need to answer the questions in the pink part of the form.

If there has been only a short break since your last claim, ask them if you can fill in the shorter claim form **JSA4RR**.

The records you will need

You should keep detailed records to help with your claim.

These records should include details of:

- the days and hours you have worked as a share fisherman;
- the days when you did not work and why;
- receipts and expenses (before deductions) of the boat and the arrangement for sharing the proceeds of the catch;
- your earnings as a share fisherman;
- any deductions made by the boat owner for the boat's expenses; and
- any payments of income tax and NI contributions, or into a pension scheme.

More information

If you want more information about the contents of this leaflet, ask for an interview at your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office.

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Jobseeker's Allowance

The rules for share fishermen

Who should read this leaflet

Read this leaflet if you are a share fisherman and you need to claim benefit because you are unable to fish.

A **'share fisherman'** is someone who works in the fishing industry who is paid a share of the earnings or profit of a boat.

This leaflet explains how share fishermen:

- can qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance;
- can claim Jobseeker's Allowance; and
- need to keep records of the work they do and the money they earn.

This leaflet gives general guidance only and is not a full statement of the law.

About Jobseeker's Allowance

You can get Jobseeker's Allowance in one of two ways.

Contribution-based – this is a weekly amount based on your age and the National Insurance (NI) contributions you have paid.

Income-based – this is for people who do not have enough NI contributions or who do not have enough money coming in.

Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance can be paid for up to six months. It does not include any extra money for a partner or other dependants, (people who depend on you financially).

National Insurance contribution conditions

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

There are two contribution conditions. You must meet **both** of them to qualify.

Condition 1

You must have **paid** special Class 2 or ordinary Class 1 contributions on earnings of at least 25 times the lower earnings limit in one of the two **Relevant Income Tax Years (RITYs)** on which your claim is based. Credits do **not** count.

Condition 2

You must have paid (or been credited with paying) special Class 2 or ordinary Class 1 contributions on earnings of at least 50 times the lower earnings limit in **both** of the **Relevant Income Tax Years (RITYs)** on which your claim is based.

Note: The RITYs are the last two full tax years before the benefit year in which the 'jobseeking period' begins, (for more information on jobseeking periods ask at your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office).

Tax years begin on 6 April each year.

Benefit years begin on the first Sunday in January each year.

Different rules about work and earnings

Share fishermen who claim contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance can benefit from rules about work and earnings which take account of the special nature of their job.

The normal rules

People who work for 16 hours or more a week on average cannot normally get Jobseeker's Allowance.

People can normally earn up to £5 a week before contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance is affected.

Earnings are taken off Jobseeker's Allowance on the date the earnings are due to be paid.

Variable earnings are averaged to work out how much is taken off.

Rules for share fishermen

The 16-hour rule does not apply because of different work patterns where a single fishing trip can last for more than 16 hours.

Share fishermen can earn up to £20 a week before contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance is affected.

Earnings are taken off Jobseeker's Allowance in the week they are earned, not the week they are paid.

Benefit is adjusted each week to take account of the earnings for that week. Earnings are not averaged out.