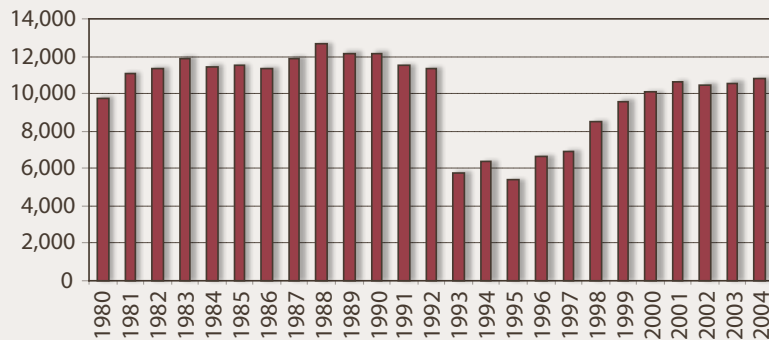


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**Fishing Type EI Beneficiaries - Month of January
Newfoundland and Labrador**



beneficiaries

Chart 11

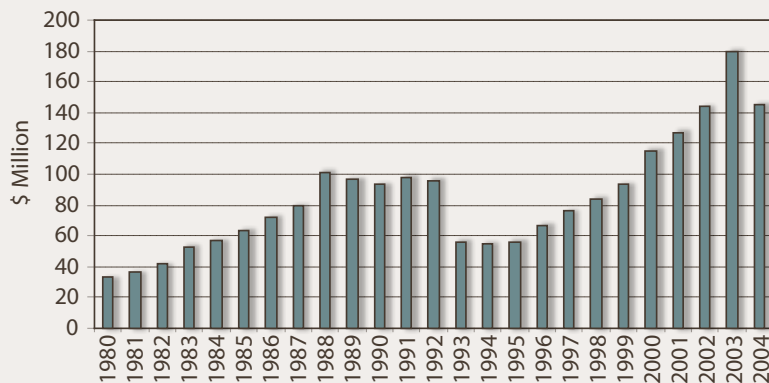
Statistics Canada, 73-001
and CANSIM Matrix # 005705

Fish Harvesters

Trends for self-employed fish harvesters are different than those recorded for EI users in the rest of the economy. The moratorium on the Northern Cod fishery caused fishing EI usage to decline by nearly half between 1992 and 1993. As a result of the moratorium, the NCARP program was implemented in 1992 and later replaced by TAGS in 1994. Only after individuals began to exit TAGS in 1996 to its termination in 1998, did the number of beneficiaries begin to climb.

In 1991, there were 11,960 individuals who opened a fishing type claim. By 1994 this figure had dropped to 6,430 but had climbed to 12,290 by 2004.

**Benefits Paid - Fishing EI Beneficiaries
Newfoundland and Labrador**



benefits

Chart 12

Statistics Canada, 73-001
and CANSIM Matrix # 005705

Benefits Paid at Highest Levels in 2002

The amount of benefits paid to individuals with fishing type claims was at its highest annual level ever in 2003 at \$179.7 million.⁶ This is \$81.6 million more than was paid in 1991, prior to the moratorium; a 83% increase. This figure declined to \$145.6 million in 2004.

The increase in benefits can be attributed to a number of factors which affect eligible benefit amounts such as higher incomes in the fishery, as a result of higher-valued shellfish species like

⁶ Figure includes additional benefits paid to some fish harvesters through HRDC's anti-dating provision, which allowed some individuals to be paid retroactive benefits for EI eligibility prior to 2004.

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crab, as well as increased negotiated prices paid for other species. The 1997 changes to Fishing EI Regulations that allowed more harvesters to qualify for two claims a year if they had sufficient earnings has also been a factor.

Under the new EI program as it relates to fish harvesters, many more self-employed fish harvesters can qualify for two claims in the same calendar year than was the case under the old UI program.⁷ In 1991, 2.4% of fish harvesters initiated a second fishing claim in the same year; in 2004, 45.9% initiated more than one claim. In occupations other than fishing, the average in 2004 was 2.8%.

The average annual benefit paid to fish harvesters has increased from \$7,630 in 1992 to \$10,150 in 2004.⁸ The average paid to regular type claims was \$6,420 in 2004.

The number of younger individuals who collect fishing EI has declined, although the drop has not been as large as for other occupations. In 2004, 29% of individuals collecting fishing type EI were less than age 35. This is a drop of 12 percentage points from 1994 (41% to 29%); compared to regular claimants less than age 35, the decline was 18 percentage points (52% to 34%).

⁷ A major change for fishing type claimants as a result of the 1996 EI reforms was that program access was now based on amount of earnings instead of weeks worked.

⁸ Figure does not include benefits paid to some fish harvesters through HRDC's anti-dating provision in 2004.

