

June 14, 2013

TO: Locals - DFO
National Executive
National and Regional E.O. Representatives

RE: **DFO Ecosystems and Fisheries Management and Program Policy UMCC Meeting**

The DFO Ecosystems and Fisheries Management and Program Policy UMCC met on May 31, 2013 with Brothers Todd Panas, National President, and Daryl Hoelke, Executive Assistant, attending.

Many senior DFO managers were not in attendance and other managers attended to represent the Department.

Jaime Caceres, A/Director-General, chaired the UMCC meeting on behalf of the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, David Balfour, who was not able to attend.

Small Craft Harbours - National Model Work Descriptions (NMWDs)

Within Small Craft Harbours, a third update has been provided with respect to the development of NMWDs. There are three streams; i.e., Climate Services, Integrated Programs and Technical Engineering.

Within Climate Services, five NMWDs are being developed and will be submitted for rating by the OCCOE in July/August.

Within Integrated Programs, three NMWDs in the AS Category will be developed this summer.

Within the Technical and Engineering Section, four NMWDs in the ENG bargaining unit will be submitted to OCCOE and four NMWDs in the EG bargaining unit will be sent to OCCOE in February 2014.

These streams are mirrored in the Regions.

Cohen's 75 Recommendations

A status report was provided by the Department outlining that the Department will be taking a broad response to the 75 recommendations. The Department stated that timelines will be ongoing and moving forward at a steady pace but the Department will not just be focusing on one recommendation in order to manage its resources.

The bargaining agents outlined their concerns stating that many of their members feel that they have been restricted from doing the best job possible due to the restraints imposed on them by the political climate and shortage of both human resources and financial resources.

Update on Online Licensing and Licensing Program (Contingency Plan Licensing)

The Department emphatically stated that there are no longer any CRs actually issuing licenses. The new way of issuing licenses will be through on-line methods and by the end of June, all counter services will be closed.

The Department proceeded Region by Region to outline what current CRs are hired to do and the Regions confirmed that they do not issue licenses.

Update/Consultation on Special Constable Status for Fishery Officers

The Department requested a legal opinion in 2009-2010 regarding Special Constable Status for Fishery Officers. The opinion was that Peace Officer status was adequate and covered all the needs of the Program which allows police forces to ask for assistance without adding further liabilities to staff which result from a Special Constable Status. The Department has closed the file and will no longer pursue Special Constable Status for Fishery Officers.

Introduction of Voluntary Fitness Objective for Fishery Officers

The Department stated that there is no intention to subject current Officers to a fitness test. The Department is encouraging all Officers to look at their respective life styles and is encouraging them to maintain both a healthy life style and a good level of physical fitness.

The Department is providing an opportunity for Officers to have a yearly review by way of a 15-minute test which is geared to age and gender (Cooper Mile, ½ mile). The Department is also offering a 12-week program and training completely at the Officers' own discretion.

These sessions began in the Pacific Region in April 2012 and will run until September 2013. All are totally voluntary for current Fishery Officers. They are, however, mandatory for any new Officers who are starting their career.

Round Table

There was a discussion about the review of the effectiveness of the Sectoral UMCCs. The issue of effectiveness of local, regional and sectoral UMCCs will also be raised at the National UMCC.

Submitted on behalf of the national office