

December 22, 2009

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

RE: **Oceans, Habitat and Species At Risk Sector UMCC Meeting**

The OHSAR (Ocean's Habitat and Species at Risk) Sector UMCC met on November 13th, 2009 with Sister Paula Dignan, Service Officer, attending on behalf of UEW. The following is a synopsis of the discussions that took place during the meeting and the announcement that followed on November 17 regarding the restructuring of the Oceans Sector.

As a follow up to the last OHSAR UMCC meeting, UEW advised the Department that there were outstanding issues in the Pacific Region regarding career progression and the regional restructuring of OHSAR. At issue is the elimination of EG field work positions. Habitat Monitors are the only EGs who now exist in the Sector and there is limited career progression. Some EGs who are part of Oceans have many years of experience and UEW questioned the Department about a possible transition process for these employees which would offer them some specific training and/or ensuring that the EG work done in Oceans had some career advancement components added to it.

DFO announced that the Oceans Directorate, currently part of OHSAR, will merge with the Science Sector and form a new Science and Oceans Sector. This change acknowledges the strong science foundation which is closely tied with the Oceans Program. For the time being, Habitat and Species at Risk will remain a separate entity with Ian Matheson as the Acting ADM. The Department clearly emphasized to the bargaining agents that these changes would not result in any job losses and there would also be no immediate changes in job functions in the Regions as the changes are in reporting only and only at DFO Headquarters.

Should you have any questions concerning the information provided above, please do not hesitate to communicate with the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,
National President,
Union of Environment Workers.