

May 29, 2009

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

RE: **DFO Oceans, Habitat & Species at Risk (OHSAR) UMCC**

The DFO Oceans, Habitat & Species at Risk (OHSAR)UMCC met on May 13, 2009 with Brother Daryl Hoelke, Executive Assistant, and Sister Paula Dignan, Service Officer, attending. The following represents a summary of the issues addressed.

In reviewing the status of the National Model Work Descriptions (NMWD) in OHSAR, UEW commented that the Department has only developed NMWDs for EG 01 through 05 positions even though historically there have been EG 06s. UEW expressed concern regarding available career progression for existing employees who have had their career path shortened by the Department not recognizing an EG 06 NMWD in the organization.

The ADM suggested investigating career planning opportunities for the EGs through consultation with the bargaining agents. There was a discussion on the affects of the changes to the classification of positions and the impact on mid-career EGs who have been with DFO for quite sometime.

The Oceans & Habitat and Species at Risk Sector has developed a NMWD chart that outlines the number of NMWDs planned for each classification. UEW noted that the ASs and CRs were not reflected in the chart. The Sector indicated that no decision has been reached by the Office of Classification Centre of Excellence (OCCOE) as to whether these generic job descriptions will be developed nationally or by each Sector. The chart will be updated by the Sector to reflect the number of administrative staff who will be receiving NMWDs.

The Assistant Deputy Minister of Oceans noted that currently there are Budget restraints within the Sector. There is also a Budget Alignment & Strategic Review (BASR2) underway.

The next meeting has been scheduled to be held in November 2009.

Should you have any questions or concerns relating to the issues noted above, please do not hesitate to communicate with the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,
National President,
Union of Environment Workers.