

For Immediate Release
17-101

December 14, 2017

**BC FERRIES AWARDS NORTHERN SEA WOLF
UPGRADE TO ESQUIMALT DRYDOCK**
Newest vessel undergoes refit in preparation for summer 2018 service

VICTORIA – The Northern Sea Wolf, BC Ferries’ newest vessel acquired for the new route from Port Hardy – Bella Coola, and named through a community engagement process, will undergo a major upgrade at Esquimalt Drydock from December 2017 to April 2018, following a competitive bidding process.

BC Ferries has awarded two major contracts to Esquimalt Drydock of Esquimalt, B.C. The first is a \$2 million docking contract for underwater components. BC Ferries will also award approximately \$18 million further to Esquimalt Drydock Company and other local contractors and suppliers for the interior and safety upgrades.

Each year, BC Ferries awards contracts of more than \$10 million for docking at local shipyards in B.C., and spends an average of \$64 million on refit and in-service maintenance at B.C. shipyards.

BC Ferries expects the Northern Sea Wolf to arrive in B.C. this week after a 10,097 nautical mile journey from Athens, Greece. The vessel is expected to drive tourism in north and central B.C. and will be a welcome addition for coastal communities.

The major upgrade will include dry docking, interior and exterior painting, overhauling the propulsion engines and gearboxes, installing new electrical generators, upgrading the switchboards, installing new navigational equipment, and upgrading shipboard safety equipment and systems. BC Ferries will also update crew and passenger areas and amenities by adding a full galley, a dedicated dining area, a newly configured seating lounge and prime outdoor viewing areas on the upper outer decks. The Northern Sea Wolf was built in 2000 and will accommodate a minimum of 35 vehicles and 150 passengers and crew.

Sailings will depart from Port Hardy and Bella Coola five days per week during peak season. Fares for this route will be consistent with the fares on the existing connecting service. The vessel will also provide year-round service to Bella Bella, Shearwater and Ocean Falls. Reservations for summer 2018 on this route and other northern routes are now open for booking. As these are popular routes, BC Ferries recommends customers reserve well in advance of their planned travel. For the schedule and additional information, please visit bcferries.com/about/projects.

Quotes:

“This award to Esquimalt Drydock Company strengthens the capability of ship repair in B.C. and supports our objective of long term, sustainable ferry service for coastal communities,” said Mark

Wilson, BC Ferries' Vice President, Strategy and Community Engagement. "This major upgrade will provide significant enhancements to the customer amenities and the vessel will undoubtedly be a very welcome addition to our fleet as it travels from northern Vancouver Island to the mid-coast starting next summer."

"Esquimalt Drydock is pleased and proud to be awarded the contract to refit the Northern Sea Wolf for BC Ferries," said Joe Sansalone, General Manager of Esquimalt Drydock Company. "This project will take approximately four months to complete with a peak workforce of 100 personnel of all trades. We look forward to working with BC Ferries again and to the successful completion of this project."

– 30 –

Media Contact:
BC Ferries, Media Relations
Victoria: (250) 978-1267

Customer Contact:
Victoria: (250) 386-3431
Toll-free: 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779)