

For Immediate Release  
18-021

July 4, 2018

**COASTAL NATURALISTS RETURN TO BC FERRIES WITH EXPANDED PROGRAM**  
**Coastal Naturalists at terminals serving the three Metro Vancouver – Vancouver Island routes on select days throughout summer**

VICTORIA – In partnership with Parks Canada, BC Ferries announced the 13<sup>th</sup> season of the popular Coastal Naturalist Program to educate and inspire travellers about the wonders of B.C.’s West Coast. The Coastal Naturalist Program runs from now through September 3 on board select vessels servicing the Metro Vancouver – Victoria (Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay) and Metro Vancouver – Nanaimo (Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay) routes. New this year, the Coastal Naturalists will also be at Tsawwassen, Swartz Bay, Horseshoe Bay, Departure Bay and Duke Point terminals on select days throughout the summer.

Fifteen enthusiastic Coastal Naturalists will engage with customers at booths located at select terminals and during 20-minute presentations on the ships. They offer a unique opportunity for a real-life coastal experience through storytelling and interaction with customers. Visitors and locals alike are invited to take part in the program this summer and discover the world beneath the waves.

“The Coastal Naturalists are a highlight for our customers and we are offering this unique experience once again, on board our vessels this summer and also at some of our terminals,” said Janet Carson, Vice President of Marketing & Customer Experience. “Every year, close to 150,000 customers take part in this program, which helps raise awareness and increases appreciation for our coastal wildlife, marine life, geography, culture and history. We hope customers enjoy the Coastal Naturalist experience, and leave our terminals and vessels feeling inspired.”

“Parks Canada is delighted that the Coastal Naturalist program is expanding into BC Ferries terminals,” said Helen Davies, Parks Canada Field Unit Superintendent for Coastal B.C. “I know that travellers will appreciate these free and educational programs that help them discover the rich natural and cultural wonders of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and surrounding waters.”

The Coastal Naturalist Program is part of BC Ferries’ SeaForward initiative. SeaForward engages the public and employees in BC Ferries’ environmental activities, conservation projects, community investments and new sustainability endeavours. For Coastal Naturalist Program details, click [here](#).

– 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)