

For Immediate Release
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June 3, 2019

NORTHERN SEA WOLF BEGINS DIRECT SEASONAL SERVICE BETWEEN PORT HARDY AND BELLA COOLA

Vessel sails direct one-way seasonal service five times a week until October 10, 2019

VICTORIA – BC Ferries celebrated with Central Coast communities today the Northern Sea Wolf's inaugural direct sailing from Bella Coola to Port Hardy. The seasonal direct service between Port Hardy and Bella Coola is a spectacular 10-hour journey through the Great Bear Rainforest. BC Ferries looks forward to welcoming tourists and local residents on board, and supporting tourism in the region with this truly unique travel experience.

On June 2, BC Ferries hosted a public open house on board the Northern Sea Wolf in Bella Coola, prior to the vessel's first direct sailing on June 3. BC Ferries invited members of the public on board to tour the ship, see the amenities and meet some of the crew. The vessel features a new galley, bridge, electrical generators, HVAC system, washrooms, elevator, chair lifts, new cafeteria and passenger accommodation area. It includes an outdoor passenger area on the top deck that provides customers with breathtaking views and is sure to be popular. BC Ferries is also holding a public open house in Port Hardy from 7 to 9 p.m. on June 3.

Kwakiutl First Nation's Richard Hunt and Nuxalk Nation's Danika Naccarella designed the artwork that adorns the Northern Sea Wolf. The artwork is displayed on the interior and exterior of the vessel for customers to view, and profiles of the artists are available onboard.

BC Ferries and community stakeholders named the Northern Sea Wolf in honour of a First Nations' legend in which the Sea Wolf is a manifestation of the Orca. The designs depict the beauty of the majestic animal, with the Sea Wolf the symbol of family, loyalty and the protector of those travelling their waters.

On May 3, the Northern Sea Wolf departed BC Ferries' refit facility in Richmond and arrived in Bella Coola the following day. The ship conducted sea trials and dock fits at the ports it serves and welcomed local residents on board for a tour at the same time. The dock fits were successful and on May 18, the Northern Sea Wolf took over from the Nimpkish to provide connector service for residents and visitors between Bella Bella, Shearwater, Ocean Falls and Bella Coola. Partial funding for the Northern Sea Wolf project was provided by the federal government through the Provincial – Territorial Infrastructure Component – National and Regional Projects.

For customers looking to discover the majestic Central Coast with convenience and ease, book a multi-night tour with BC Ferries Vacations. For more information, visit bcferries.com/vacations. For more information about the Northern Sea Wolf and the routes it serves, visit bcferries.com.

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Quotes and photos below.

High resolution b-roll of the Northern Sea Wolf available upon request.

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)

Quotes

“We are excited for the Northern Sea Wolf to start service on this important route connecting the Central Coast, and are proud to offer customers a breathtaking journey on board this ship. This vessel will provide safe and reliable service for these communities for years to come, and help drive tourism to the region.”

- Mark Wilson, BC Ferries’ Vice President, Strategy & Community Engagement

“Ferry service is a lifeline for people living on the Central Coast, and for too long they have been waiting for a modern, reliable and comfortable service. The arrival of the Northern Sea Wolf is wonderful news for local people, Indigenous communities, small businesses and tourism operators who depend on this popular route.”

- BC’s Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Claire Trevena

“Investing in the improvement and expansion of our public transportation systems is essential to providing a high quality of life for residents and supporting tourism. The direct ferry route between Port Hardy and Bella Coola connects communities and offers Canadians and local businesses greater opportunities while transforming the way that we live, move and work.”

- The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

“Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism is pleased to welcome the Northern Sea Wolf to Bella Coola on its maiden voyage. This direct summer service not only showcases our world-renowned Great Bear Rainforest, but allows visitors to experience BC in a circle tour across the Chilcotin Plateau, along the Gold Rush Trail and through Vancouver Island. I commend BC Ferries for their commitment to this route and look forward to a successful season!”

- Amy Thacker, CEO, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association



Northern Sea Wolf's official ribbon cutting ceremony on June 2, 2019 in Bella Coola

Senior Master Guy Kendall; Senior Chief Engineer Grant Locke; Mark Wilson, Vice President of Strategy & Community Engagement; Hereditary Chief Noel Pootlass, Nuxalk Nation; Samuel Schooner, Chair of the Central Coast Regional District; Jennifer Rice, MLA North Coast