

For Immediate Release
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March 28, 2017

SPIRIT OF VANCOUVER ISLAND UPDATE Vessel remains out of service until approximately April 7

VICTORIA – The Spirit of Vancouver Island, which operates on BC Ferries’ Metro Vancouver – Victoria (Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay) route, remains out of service due to a hydraulic issue with the port side controllable pitch propeller. The vessel will dry dock on March 31 for approximately one week for repairs.

As a result of the mechanical issue, the following modified sailing schedule will be in effect for March 30, 31 and April 2:

Thursday, March 30		Friday, March 31		Sunday, April 2	
From Tsawwassen	From Swartz Bay	From Tsawwassen	From Swartz Bay	From Tsawwassen	From Swartz Bay
7 am	7 am	7 am	7 am	7 am	7 am
9 am	9 am	9 am	9 am	9 am	9 am
11 am	11 am	11 am	11 am	11 am	11 am
1 pm	1 pm	1 pm	1 pm	12 pm	1 pm
2 pm	3 pm	2 pm	3 pm	1 pm	2 pm
3 pm	4 pm	3 pm	4 pm	3 pm	3 pm
5 pm	5 pm	5 pm	5 pm	4 pm	5 pm
7 pm	7 pm	6 pm	7 pm	5 pm	6 pm
9 pm	9 pm	7 pm	8 pm	7 pm	7 pm
		9 pm	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm

During these dates, 11 of 57 Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay sailings are cancelled. Customers with reservations on these sailings are being notified by BC Ferries’ Customer Care team and accommodated on the next available sailing.

BC Ferries has also added additional sailings on the Metro Vancouver – Nanaimo (Tsawwassen – Duke Point) route for customers who may wish to consider travelling that route as an alternative as follows:

Sunday, April 2	
From Tsawwassen	From Duke Point
5:15 a.m.	5:15 a.m.
7:45 a.m.	7:45 a.m.

Heavy traffic is expected on several sailings between Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island this weekend. BC Ferries anticipates Thursday, Friday and Sunday afternoon and evening to be busy. In particular, late Sunday afternoon at Tsawwassen will be extremely busy. Customers may wish to consider travelling earlier from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay on Sunday to avoid heavy traffic.

Customers travelling on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route this weekend with a specific sailing time in mind may wish to make a reservation by calling 1-888-BCFERRY. Customers travelling on this route without reservations may wish to consider travelling via the Metro Vancouver – Nanaimo (Tsawwassen – Duke Point) or West Vancouver – Nanaimo (Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay) routes.

This modified schedule will also affect the Tsawwassen – Southern Gulf Islands Thru Fare. Customers are reminded there is another direct route to travel to the Southern Gulf Islands via the Queen of Nanaimo. Please visit bcferries.com for more information.

BC Ferries appreciates customers' patience during this time and will provide an update on the Spirit of Vancouver Island when more information is available.

Under contract to the Province of British Columbia, BC Ferries is the service provider responsible for the delivery of safe, efficient and dependable ferry service along coastal British Columbia.

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