

For Immediate Release
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December 9, 2019

BC FERRIES VESSEL BOWEN QUEEN TO SERVE VICTORIA TO SALT SPRING ROUTE OVER DECEMBER HOLIDAY PERIOD

VICTORIA – BC Ferries is reminding customers the vessel, Bowen Queen, will be on the Victoria (Swartz Bay) – Salt Spring Island (Fulford Harbour) route from Dec. 20, 2019 to Jan. 1, 2020. The vessel that usually serves this route, Skeena Queen, is undergoing a mid-life upgrade from Oct. 28, 2019 to mid-March, 2020.

The Queen of Cumberland has been servicing this route during the mid-life upgrade, but is needed on the Victoria – Southern Gulf Islands route during the December holiday period. This is because the Salish Raven will move over to the Tsawwassen to Southern Gulf Islands route to provide supplemental service due to forecasted traffic increases.

Customers travelling in vehicles from Fulford Harbour on Salt Spring Island may experience longer lineups due to the smaller capacity of the Bowen Queen. However, the Bowen Queen loads and transits faster than the Queen of Cumberland, so will be able to provide two additional round trips per day.

BC Ferries expects certain runs will still be popular. During the time the Bowen Queen is in place, BC Ferries will have a [revised schedule](#) with modified sailing times. As a result, customers connecting with buses may experience longer waits on arrival at the terminal. The Bowen Queen also has reduced space for commercial vehicles and a maximum vehicle width of 10 feet.

The Skeena Queen's mid-life upgrade is necessary to provide required maintenance on the vessel and enhance the customer experience. Enhancements include new chairs and floors in the lounges, a dedicated pet lounge, larger washrooms and improved accessibility for washrooms. BC Ferries appreciates customers' patience and understanding as it conducts this necessary mid-life upgrade. For more information, please visit the [project page](#) on bcferrries.com.

Travel Tips for Customers

- During the Skeena Queen's mid-life upgrade, BC Ferries encourages customers to arrive early at the terminal to get on the sailing of their choice.
- To avoid waits that may occur travelling through Swartz Bay, Metro Vancouver customers are encouraged to reserve early for travel on the Tsawwassen to Southern Gulf Islands route. There will be additional sailings on the Tsawwassen to Southern Gulf Islands route during the December holiday period.
- Crews will load the vessels in an efficient way, however some overloads may still occur, particularly when the Bowen Queen is in place over the December holiday period.

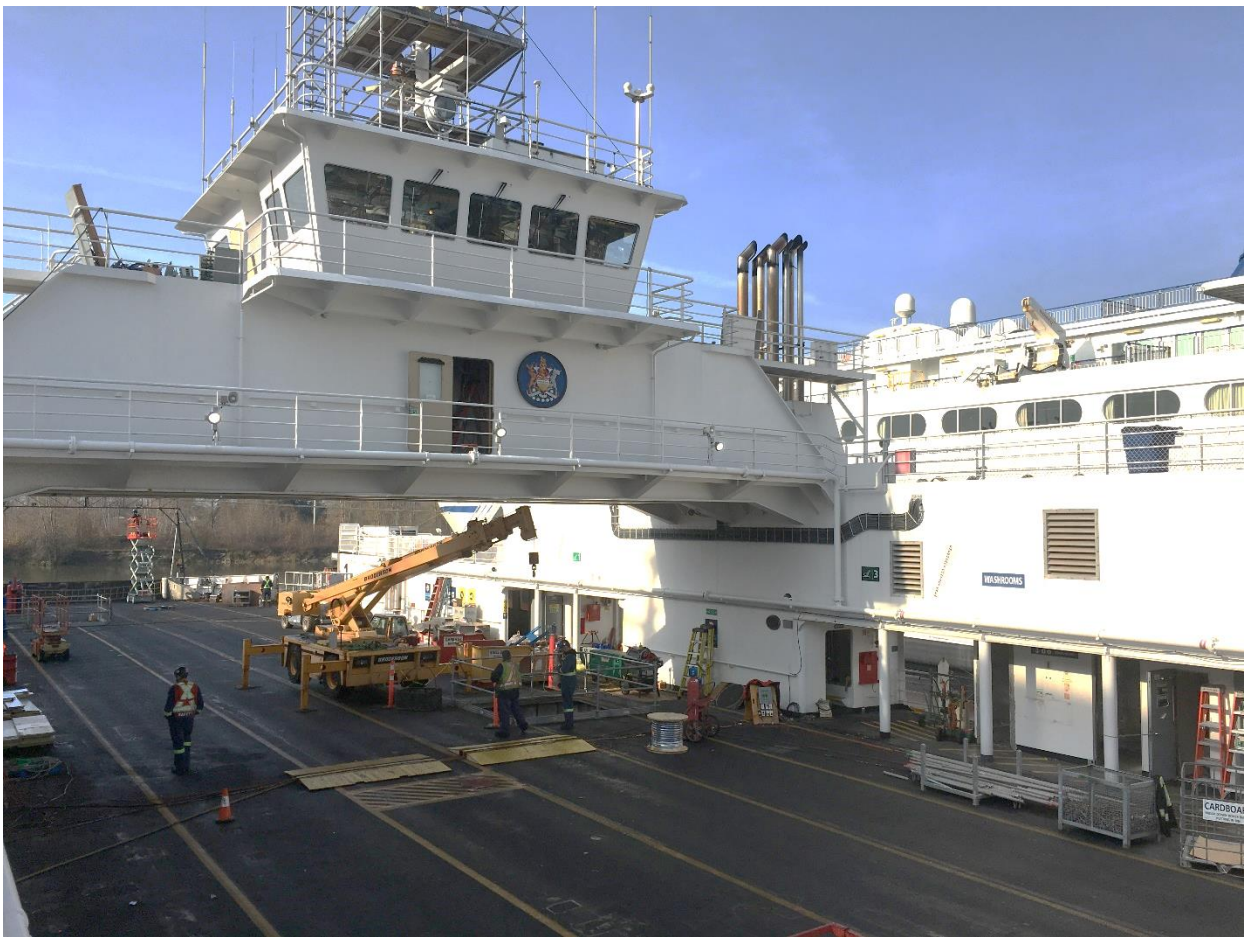
- Customers may want to do their holiday shopping early, or plan their holiday travel around the dates the Bowen Queen is on the route.

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Photo of Skeena Queen's mid-life upgrade progress attached.

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The Skeena Queen's mid-life upgrade is underway at BC Ferries' Fleet Maintenance Unit.