

An Update from BC Ferries — *Northern Sea Wolf* Coming Soon

The *Northern Sea Wolf*, BC Ferries' newest vessel that will sail between Port Hardy and Bella Coola, is in the process of a major upgrade to prepare it for service this summer. This major upgrade will provide significant enhancements to the customer amenities and modernize the vessel for a safe and comfortable journey for residents and visitors up and down the B.C. coast.

The upgrades that customers will see when they board the vessel include updates to the main passenger areas and amenities, with the addition of a full galley, a dedicated dining area, a newly configured seating lounge and prime outdoor viewing areas on the upper outer decks. The outside decks will be a relaxing place to view the remarkable coastal scenery and wildlife of the region.

Upgrades that customers won't see, but that are equally as important to delivering a safe and comfortable voyage include 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.

The *Northern Sea Wolf* on a direct route between northern Vancouver Island and the Central Coast, will support tourism and take customers directly into the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. We expect it will drive economic development and support the job opportunities in First Nations, coastal and interior communities. Connecting coastal scenery and wildlife to BC Ferries and this vessel

will provide a reliable link that supports our objective of long-term, sustainable ferry service for coastal B.C.

A community engagement process with representatives from local First Nations, Ferry Advisory Committee members, BC Ferries employees and the Mid-Coast Ferry Working Group resulted in the selection of the vessel name, *Northern Sea Wolf*. The name is inspired by a First Nations legend in which the Sea Wolf is a manifestation of the Orca. The Sea Wolf symbolizes family and loyalty and the spirit of the Sea Wolf protects those travelling their waters. BC Ferries has partnered with the First Peoples' Cultural Council to facilitate the commission of an original design from a First Nations artist and original text from a First Nations writer to adorn the interior of the vessel. The artist and writer will be selected in March.

The vessel upgrade is underway in Victoria, and BC Ferries has awarded the major contracts to Esquimalt Drydock, along with other local contractors and suppliers to complete the interior and safety upgrades. The contracts are approximately \$20 million worth of work and materials to the local economy. Bringing a new vessel



The *Northern Sea Wolf* at Ogden Point, Victoria. Photo courtesy of Ian Robertson, Victoria Harbour Authority.

into the fleet brings business opportunities for local suppliers and work for B.C. shipyards as the vessel will receive regular refits and ongoing maintenance to ensure it provides safe and reliable service for years to come.

The *Northern Sea Wolf* was built in 2000 and will accommodate at least 35 vehicles and 150 passengers and crew. Sailings will depart from Port Hardy and Bella Coola five days per week during the summer season. The vessel will also provide year-round service to Bella Bella, Shearwater and Ocean Falls. Please visit bcferries.com for the schedule and additional information about this route.

The *Northern Sea Wolf* will be a welcome addition to our fleet and we look forward to welcoming you on board this summer.

Sincerely,

Mark Wilson

Vice President, Strategy and Community Engagement



“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.”



The *Northern Sea Wolf* undergoing a major upgrade at Esquimalt Drydock.