HEAVY RAINS CREATE MAJOR DEBRIS ISSUE IN HOWE SOUND

VANCOUVER – The torrential rains over the past week have greatly increased the run-off from rivers and creeks in Howe Sound creating turbulent waters and excessive debris.

This morning, the Queen of Cowichan, which operates on the Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay route, was forced to tie-up for approximately four hours to clear pine needles and other debris which were found to be clogging the sea strainers, affecting the main engines cooling system.

The sea strainers normally filter out debris that would affect engine cooling. However, the significant abundance of such fine material is overwhelming for the filter system.

The 8:30 a.m. sailing from Horseshoe Bay and the 10:30 a.m. sailing from Departure Bay were cancelled while engineers and deckhands worked to remove the debris from the cooling system.

The Queen of Coquitlam, which also services the Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay route, has been affected by the same problem. The 3:00 p.m. sailing from Horseshoe Bay and the 5:00 p.m. sailing from Departure Bay were cancelled while crew unclogged the sea strainers.

BC Ferries is closely monitoring the two other vessels that transit the Howe Sound area. The Queen of Surrey services the Langdale route and the Queen of Capilano operates on the Bowen Island route.

These sailing cancellations are caused by debris from the recent torrential rains and are in no way related to collective bargaining.

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