

For Immediate Release
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January 11, 2017

SALISH ORCA ARRIVES TODAY

VICTORIA – Salish Orca, the first of three new Salish Class vessels built for BC Ferries, arrived in British Columbia today. The vessel reached B.C. waters this morning after a 50-day 10,440 nautical mile journey from Gdansk, Poland, and is being met with much excitement.

After Salish Orca clears Canadian Customs and final inspections are complete, the vessel will be officially handed over to BC Ferries. Over the next couple of months, crews will be trained and familiarized in the operation of this new state-of-the-art ship. After public open houses in Powell River and Comox, Salish Orca will start service on that route in the spring of 2017.

“This is a very exciting day for all of us at BC Ferries as we proudly welcome this beautiful ship, Salish Orca, home to British Columbia and into our fleet,” said Mike Corrigan, BC Ferries’ President and CEO. “The Salish Class vessels will provide us cost savings and efficiencies with standardized vessels and greater interoperability as well as enhance safety well into the future. They are very well built ships, which will serve our customers for many years to come.”

The Salish Class vessels are BC Ferries’ first natural gas-fuelled vessels. Using natural gas as the primary fuel source is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 15 to 25 per cent, reduce sulphur oxides (SOx) by over 85 per cent, reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) by over 50 per cent, and nearly eliminate particulate matter.

The 107-metre Salish Class ships will carry 145 vehicles and up to 600 passengers and crew. The vessels feature two car decks and have a service speed of 15.5 knots. Each ship is powered by three Wartsila 8L20DF engines. Gross tonnage of each ship is 8,728 tonnes.

Salish Orca’s sister ships, Salish Eagle and Salish Raven, are expected to arrive in B.C. this spring and will start service in the Southern Gulf Islands later this year.

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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MV SALISH ORCA

- Salish Orca, the first of three new Salish Class vessels, arrived in B.C. on January 11, 2017 after a 50-day journey from Gdansk, Poland.
- The voyage was 10,440 nautical miles.
- The vessel departed Poland on November 22, 2016, and stopped for fuel in the Canary Islands, Panama and Mexico.
- Salish Orca will enter service on the Powell River – Comox route in the spring. Sister ships, Salish Eagle and Salish Raven will commence service in the Southern Gulf Islands later this year.
- The 107-metre Salish Class ships will carry 145 vehicles and up to 600 passengers and crew.
- Each ferry features two vehicle decks, a passenger lounge, Coastal Café and Passages Gift Shop.
- The vessels are dual-fuel, so they can operate on natural gas or ultra-low sulphur marine diesel. BC Ferries intends to operate the vessels with natural gas to improve its environmental footprint and reduce operating costs.
- Using natural gas as the primary fuel source is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 15 to 25 per cent, reduce sulphur oxides (SOx) by over 85 per cent, reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) by over 50 per cent, and nearly eliminate particulate matter.
- The Salish Class vessels are built to the highest safety standards and are certified by Lloyd’s Register and Transport Canada.
- These ships are equipped with two marine evacuation systems with life rafts, two rescue boats, smoke and natural gas detection alarms and state-of-the-art fire suppression systems.
- The vessels are propelled by Schottel thrusters at each end, driven by an efficient gas-electric power plant.
- The gross tonnage of each vessel is 8,728 gross tonnes and is powered by three Wartsila 8L20DF engines.
- The service speed of the vessels is 15.5 knots.
- The Salish Class vessels were named to honour the Coast Salish people as the original mariners of the Salish Sea. Each vessel features the artwork of a Coast Salish artist.
- The artwork on Salish Orca was created by Darlene Gait, a Coast Salish artist from Esquimalt Nation.

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