

For Immediate Release  
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## **BC FERRIES ADDS SAILINGS TO SCHEDULES ON SOME MINOR ROUTES Schedule Improvements Advocated by Ferry Advisory Committees**

VICTORIA – Working with local Ferry Advisory Committees, BC Ferries is adding sailings to the schedules on four of its minor routes. Extra service is now scheduled on the Earls Cove – Saltery Bay, Horseshoe Bay – Bowen Island, Buckley Bay – Denman Island and Alliford Bay – Skidegate routes on a two-year trial basis.

“These changes are great examples of Ferry Advisory Committees bringing forward suggestions to enhance service for their communities, and we are pleased to be implementing their proposals,” says Mark Collins, BC Ferries’ President and CEO. “The schedule changes will provide our customers with more opportunities to travel, will reduce overloads and encourage more traffic.”

“An improved schedule better meets the needs of our community, and we are confident that the two-year pilot will prove itself,” said Kim Barton-Bridges, Chair of the Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee. “Our committee appreciates the investment BC Ferries is making in Powell River and for encouraging meaningful community engagement via the Ferry Advisory Committee process.”

“Bowen residents appreciate the return of these weekend sailings because many of us depend on them for a wide variety of activities, from shift work to children’s recreation,” said Susanna Braund, Chair of the Bowen Island Ferry Advisory Committee.

“These additional mid-day sailings will be valued by entrepreneurs and islanders generally,” added Frank Frketich, Chair of the Denman-Hornby Ferry Advisory Committee. “The most significant benefit will be seen in the reduction of overloads and resulting wait times, and we are pleased that BC Ferries was able to fulfill our request.”

BC Ferries is under contract to the Province of British Columbia, as the service provider responsible for the delivery of safe, efficient and dependable ferry service along coastal British Columbia. The contract stipulates a minimum number of sailings BC Ferries must provide on each route on a daily and annual basis. Under the model, BC Ferries can add service above contract levels on its own accord, if traffic warrants.

For full details on these schedules on all BC Ferries’ routes, visit [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com).

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Summary of additional sailings attached

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## Details of Schedule Improvements

### **Earls Cove – Saltery Bay:**

Addition of a 5:35 am sailing departing Saltery Bay and a 6:30 am sailing departing Earls Cove Monday through Saturday during summer schedule effective June 22, 2017 on a two-year pilot basis.

This early morning departure from Saltery Bay will allow Powell River residents and businesses year-round schedule consistency and early morning opportunities to travel to Metro Vancouver.

### **Horseshoe Bay – Bowen Island:**

Addition of a 7:00 am sailing departing Horseshoe Bay and a 7:30 am sailing departing Bowen Island on Saturdays effective May 20, 2017 on a two-year pilot basis.

Addition of a 9:05 am sailing departing Horseshoe Bay and a 9:35 am sailing departing Bowen Island on Sundays effective May 21, 2017 on a two-year pilot basis.

These morning sailings will provide timely access to Metro Vancouver especially for families travelling to sporting events and activities.

### **Buckley Bay – Denman Island:**

Addition of a 2:15 pm sailing from Denman Island and a 2:35 pm sailing daily from Buckley Bay in the off-peak season effective September 5, 2017. As a result, the last sailing of the day will depart Buckley Bay 15 minutes earlier at 9:30 pm.

These additional mid-day sailings will help alleviate overloads and provide better connections with both Vancouver Island and Hornby Island.

### **Skidegate – Alliford Bay:**

Addition of sailings from Skidegate at 10:55 am and 2:50 pm and from Alliford Bay at 11:20 am and 2:25 pm on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays effective June 1, 2017 on a two-year pilot basis.

These extra sailings will improve connections to and from the Sandspit Airport and provide more sailing choices.