

For Immediate Release  
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June 27, 2018

**BUSY LONG WEEKEND AHEAD ON HORSESHOE BAY – DEPARTURE BAY ROUTE  
Coastal Inspiration to Return to Service July 2**

VICTORIA – BC Ferries is advising customers that the Horseshoe Bay (West Vancouver) – Departure Bay (Nanaimo) route will be extremely busy on Thurs., June 28 and Fri., June 29 heading into the Canada Day long weekend. The company planned to add a third major vessel to the route last weekend; however repairs to the Coastal Inspiration are taking longer than originally anticipated. BC Ferries is advising customers without vehicle reservations on this route to avoid travelling via Horseshoe Bay terminal on these two days.

On Fri., June 22, BC Ferries informed customers that the Coastal Inspiration had experienced a problem with a planned propeller hub repair and would be delayed in returning to service until at least June 30. The work being done is highly technical and is regrettably taking longer than expected, with a new return to service date of Mon., July 2.

To assist customers who have a flexible travel schedule, BC Ferries is adding a 12:30 a.m. sailing from Horseshoe Bay at the end of the sailing day on both June 28 and June 29. Reservations are available on these sailings. These sailings will be additional to other sailings previously added to the other Vancouver Island – Metro Vancouver routes in preparation for the Canada Day long weekend.

In order to make informed travel plans, suggestions for customers travelling from Horseshoe Bay to Departure Bay without vehicle reservations include:

- Travel as a foot passenger
- Take public transit to and from the ferry terminals or have a friend or family member drop you off; terminal parking lots will reach capacity early in the weekend
- Travel on days other than June 28 and 29
- Travel early in the day. Sailings prior to 9 a.m. are less busy
- Sat., June 30 is expected to be busy in the morning. Sun., July 1 will be the least busy of the days affected

Customers who had reservations on sailings that have been cancelled will be contacted via email by BC Ferries Customer Care to notify them of the cancellation of their reservation and fee refund. BC Ferries regrets that it will not be able to move customers to the next available sailing, as reservations are near capacity for all sailings.

Traffic across all BC Ferries routes is expected to be very busy from Thurs., June 28 through Tues., July 3. Over the past four years, vehicle traffic has increased 14 per cent and passenger traffic has increased 12 per cent. The company has recently experienced the highest passenger traffic levels

in 20 years and the highest levels of vehicle traffic ever, leaving little slack capacity in the coastal ferry system even when all ships are available.

To assist with travel planning, customers are encouraged to check the Travel Advisory on [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com) and follow @BCFerries on Twitter for the most up-to-date information.

BC Ferries recognizes how much this affects its customers and the travel plans they have made, especially over this long weekend. The company appreciates your patience and apologizes for disrupting travel plans on this important holiday weekend.

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