

For Immediate Release
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**BC FERRIES INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO THE RELEASE OF MARINE LIFE
FROM THE NICHOLAS SONNTAG MARINE EDUCATION CENTRE
Release party at Centre on Oct. 20; Release day at Armours Beach on Oct. 25**

VICTORIA –BC Ferries invites customers and the Sunshine Coast community to join them in saying goodbye to the animals from the Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre (NSMEC) through two community celebrations next week.

The NSMEC uses a unique catch and release model for its aquarium, and it's one of only three aquariums in Canada that operates this way. At the end of the season, the centre delivers on its promise to customers to return the animals safely back to their habitats. BC Ferries is supporting two events the centre is organizing, the Release Party and the Release Day.

On Sunday, October 20, BC Ferries will be onsite from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the centre for the Release Party, which offers coastal residents free admission, giveaways and the chance to see Coastal Naturalist presentations. On Friday, October 25, the company will join the centre for the Release Day at Armours Beach, which starts at 10 a.m. All schools and the Sunshine Coast community are invited to take part in this event.

“Supporting the Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre is important to all of us at BC Ferries,” said Janet Carson, Vice President of Marketing & Customer Experience at BC Ferries. “We care about the marine life we share the waters with and are dedicated to helping support environmental education in coastal British Columbia.”

As a stakeholder in the Salish Sea, BC Ferries has a responsibility to understand how its activities affect marine life in British Columbia and to act to reduce and mitigate impact. The company has been an early and active participant in efforts to understand and mitigate the effects of underwater radiated noise. To view BC Ferries' Long-term Underwater Noise Management Plan, visit bcferries.com.

“We are excited to once again have BC Ferries on board to co-host our community aquarium Release Party and Release Day,” said Graham Starsage, Manager & Curator for the NSMEC. “BC Ferries' partnership is instrumental supporting our vision of an educated community that actively cares for the health of our oceans. Our passion is helping people build awareness and knowledge, which then connects them to caring and taking positive action for the environment. We invite you to join our staff, volunteers and community in celebrating the ocean on these two fun filled learning days!”

About the Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre

The Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre aims to advance education by establishing and operating a public marine education centre on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia and to protect the environment for the benefit of the public by undertaking projects that sustain the marine ecosystem of Howe Sound, British Columbia and beyond.

Photo attached.

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The aquarium at the Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre.