



## Ferry Notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 30, 2025

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### May 30<sup>th</sup> Ferry Haul-Out Update

The Guemes Island ferry has successfully completed the required incline test with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and has been cleared to return to normal service. We will run sea trials briefly for the next few hours starting at noon. **We estimate the first vehicle ferry run will be either 5:30 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. from Anacortes.**

There will be a transition between passenger service to the vehicle ferry from approximately 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. We will do our best to complete a few passenger runs during this time as we can. **If you are parked in the ferry loading lanes, please move your vehicle to help create space for vehicle queuing.**

The incline test determines the stability of the ship and measures the vessel's center of gravity. The test is conducted by shifting a series of weights across the deck while in the water to measure the resulting incline of the vessel. The incline measurements must meet standard USCG requirements for the vessel to receive an approved stability letter.



*Ferry undergoing the incline test.*



*Ferry docked in Anacortes for incline test.*

Because the Guemes Island ferry had several modifications during the haul-out period, USCG determined we must undergo a new incline test before returning to service. USCG tests and inspections, and sea and dock trials, are completed with Skagit County ferry staff present and overseeing the work.

USCG still requires an annual inspection of the ferry to be completed by July 13<sup>th</sup>. We had originally planned to complete the incline test and annual inspection at the same time; however, because of the schedule changes during the haul-out delays we were unable to arrange a time for the USCG inspector to conduct the inspection during the incline test. USCG has given the ferry division permission to return to service before the inspection is completed, and

the annual inspection has been rescheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup> while the vessel is underway. The annual inspection will not interfere with our normal sailing schedule.

## Preparing for the Return of the Vehicle Ferry

Please don't forget to purchase your ferry tickets on our app or on the [website](#) prior to arrival at the ferry terminal. Both vehicle and passenger tickets are now available for purchase and purchasing ahead of time will allow you to bypass the ticket office at the terminal. If you have any questions, please reach out to the ferry office at 360-293-6433 or [ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us)

If you have a dated punch card (regardless of the expiration date on the card), the expiration date has been extended to two weeks beyond the ferry's return to service date. According to Resolution #20250009, the County Engineer is to determine the date in which dated punch cards will expire. **The County Engineer has determined this date to be Saturday, June 14, 2025. All dated paper punch cards (regardless of the expiration date on the card) will expire on this date and will not be accepted after June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

Additionally, COVID Emergency Punch Cards and Convenience Cards (marked "no expiry") will continue to be valid for regular use through December 31, 2025. After that date, they will no longer be accepted.

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