

Ferry Notice FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 19, 2025 Jenn Rogers, Communications Manager, Skagit County jrogers@co.skagit.wa.us · 360-416-1309

Guemes Island Ferry Haul-Out Update

The Guemes Island ferry will not return to service for Memorial Day Weekend. At this time, the best estimate for return to service would be Friday, June 6th. If the remaining work and trials go smoothly, there is a possibility the ferry could return sooner, but we will keep the community updated on any changes.

In order to return to service by the holiday weekend, the ferry needed to be launched no later than Sunday, May 18th, to allow for enough time to conduct sea trials, sail back to Anacortes, and complete the required incline test with the U.S. Coast Guard. Skagit County continues to be disappointed with the schedule delays from Nichol's Brothers Boat Builders (NBBB) and staff are doing everything they can to support NBBB to finish the drydock work.

NBBB is still working to align both new engines on the foundations, hooking up the exhaust, cooling, and fuel systems, and installing new hoses for the hydraulic systems. The engines required over 100 new hydraulic hoses, all custom measured and fabricated, to fit with the new engines, foundations, and enclosures.

Our team remains in constant communication with the Coast Guard to reschedule the incline test and annual inspection as soon as the work is completed at NBBB.

We will continue to send out updates on drydock work to the email listserv and social media channels. If you have any questions, please contact the ferry office at <u>ferrycomments@co.skagit.wa.us</u> or 360-293-6433. More information on the ferry can be found on our website: <u>www.skagitcounty.net/ferry</u>