

For Immediate Release
17-021

March 24, 2017

**SPIRIT OF VANCOUVER ISLAND TEMPORARILY REMOVED FROM SERVICE
Modified schedules in effect for Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route on March 25 and 26**

VICTORIA – The Spirit of Vancouver Island, which operates on BC Ferries’ Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route, has been temporarily removed from service due to a hydraulic issue with the port side controllable pitch propeller. Engineers continue to troubleshoot the issue and will determine early next week the further status of the vessel. This removal from service means only three vessels are available to operate on the route on Sunday as opposed to four. There is no change in number of vessels operating the route on Saturday.

As a result of the mechanical issue, the following sailings have been cancelled on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route:

Saturday, March 25		Sunday, March 26	
From Tsawwassen	From Swartz Bay	From Tsawwassen	From Swartz Bay
2 p.m.	12 p.m.	12 p.m.	2 p.m.
		4 p.m.	6 p.m.

Customers with reservations on the sailings above are being notified by BC Ferries’ Customer Care team and accommodated on the next scheduled sailing.

To assist customers travelling between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island and due to the reduced capacity, the Queen of New Westminster will perform additional sailings on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route as follows:

Saturday, March 25		Sunday, March 26	
From Tsawwassen	From Swartz Bay	From Tsawwassen	From Swartz Bay
12 p.m.	2 p.m.	10 a.m.	8 p.m.
4 p.m.	6 p.m.		11 p.m.*

**Provided by the Coastal Renaissance*

BC Ferries has also added additional sailings on the Tsawwassen – Duke Point route as follows:

Sunday, March 26	
From Tsawwassen	From Duke Point
5:15 a.m.	5:15 a.m.
7:45 a.m.	7:45 a.m.

Heavy traffic is expected on some sailings between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island this weekend. BC Ferries advises customers travelling on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay route this weekend with a set travel time in mind to make a reservation by calling 1-888-BCFERRY. Customers travelling on this route without reservations are advised to consider travelling via the Tsawwassen – Duke Point or Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay routes.

BC Ferries appreciates customers' patience and will provide an update when more information about the status of the Spirit of Vancouver Island is available.

Under contract to the Province of British Columbia, BC Ferries is the service provider responsible for the delivery of safe, efficient and dependable ferry service along coastal British Columbia.

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Media Contact:
BC Ferries, Communications
Victoria: (250) 978-1267

Customer Contact:
Victoria: (250) 386-3431
Toll-free: 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779)