WhaleReport Alert System

This week, we started using a [whale alert app and web-based system](https://example.com) that will give our captains a more accurate and updated location for whales throughout Puget Sound. The [WhaleReport Alert System (WRAS)](https://example.com) provides our crews with better information about cetacean sightings so decisions can be made to change course or reduce speed. WRAS was developed by Ocean Wise as a collaborative effort through the Port of Vancouver’s [Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation (ECHO) Program](https://example.com).

WRAS allows staff at our operations center to monitor the location of whale sightings relative to fleet vessel positions and relay whale presence information as required.

Executive Team tours Edmonds/Kingston route

This week, my team and I toured our Edmonds/Kingston route. We met with terminal employees in Edmonds and Kingston and talked to the deck and engine crews aboard Puyallup and Spokane. Thank you to all the staff who spent
time with us! I will continue to hold “floating meetings” of the WSF Executive Team on a regular basis out in the fleet.

The WSF Executive Team and I with Edmonds terminal employees Robin Hedington (in the booth) and Jennifer Bruggman (in white).

New pickup and drop-off area in Clinton now open

Walk-on passengers at our Clinton terminal now have a safer, more accessible pickup and drop-off area. Ferry Dock Road reopened this week, following seven months of construction. The $3 million passenger and ADA improvement project was funded through the 2015 Connecting Washington funding package, a 16-year program, funded primarily by an 11.9-cent gas tax increase. Our contractor is now finishing up a new railing, landscaping, drainage work and lighting. Thank you to all our Clinton customers and neighbors for your patience during construction!

Ferry Dock Road is off the right side of State Route 525 as you approach our Clinton terminal. People with disabilities

Our popular Seahawks floating pep rally is back for a fifth year in a row and will again feature a “Most Decked Out Fan Contest.”

After the pep rally, we’re having a customer appreciation event for our Seattle customers, thanking them for their patience during recent Colman Dock construction changes. On the afternoon commute sailings out of Seattle at 4:15 p.m. to Bremerton and 4:45 p.m. to Bainbridge Island, walk-on passengers have the option to receive a voucher for a free refreshment from the vessel’s galley, courtesy of Colman Dock Project contractor Hoffman-Pacific. Project staff will also be available to listen to feedback and answer questions about recent access changes and upcoming construction activities.

One more day to tweet #FerryFotoContest photos

Want to see your photo on the cover of our printed sailing schedules? Well, you have one more day to send us your best ferry pictures! All you have to do is follow @wsferries, then post your photographs on Twitter by noon tomorrow, Oct. 4. Be
Roof goes on new Mukilteo terminal building

Crews are lowering 84 roof panels, measuring 10-feet by 20-feet each, onto our new Mukilteo terminal building this week. The panels are constructed of cross-laminated timbers, or CLT, which is wood stacked crosswise and bonded with structural adhesives. CLT panels provide the strength of traditional building materials but with a lower environmental impact, in keeping with our commitment to the tribes and the City of Mukilteo to be “light on the earth” and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified on this project.

A crane lowers a 10-by-20-foot CLT panel onto the new Mukilteo terminal building. It was one of 84 placed on top of the structure this week.

Amy Scarton
Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

We will tweet the photos of our six finalists on our @wsferries page at noon Oct. 14, starting a week-long public voting period.