



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Restoring Faith in the Ferries  
*Updated schedules improving service in the Salish Sea*

FRIDAY HARBOR, WA... When people think of Washington State icons, they often reel off salmon, orcas, Mt. Rainier, and evergreen trees, not necessarily in that order. Washingtonians add one more – those quintessential green and white vessels traveling throughout the Salish Sea – Washington State Ferries, the largest ferry system in the U.S. and fourth largest in the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated some weaknesses in the system, but in recent months Washington State Ferries (WSF) has made great strides in short-term solutions that provide more reliable service for ferry-dependent communities like the San Juan Islands. The Anacortes/San Juan Islands routes had 247 fewer cancellations in 2024 compared to 2023, and the percentage of scheduled trips completed (previously referred to as reliability) was 96.91% for 2024, up from 96.03% in 2023, and WSF's highest since 2021.

The Anacortes/San Juan Islands winter route schedule was updated for 2025 which has improved the season's on-time performance from 68.5% in 2024 to 91.1% so far this year. This translates to of the almost 2,100 sailings for the San Juans in January, only 160 departures had a delay. A new summer schedule will be released in April ahead of the season's two-month release of vehicle reservations. The updated spring timetables will be used again in the fall.

What riders can expect:

- More realistic crossing times and dwell times (how long vessels stay at each terminal between sailings).
- Improved on-time performance and more certainty for customers that boats will arrive and depart on time.
- WSF will monitor the new schedule and vehicle allotments closely. If issues become apparent, WSF is prepared to adjust the schedule.

Both residents and businesses have been pleased with these results and their experiences to date and are looking forward to much smoother sailing this year for their families, friends, and visitors.

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