Washington State Ferries

Service Restoration Plan Progress Report

WSDOT

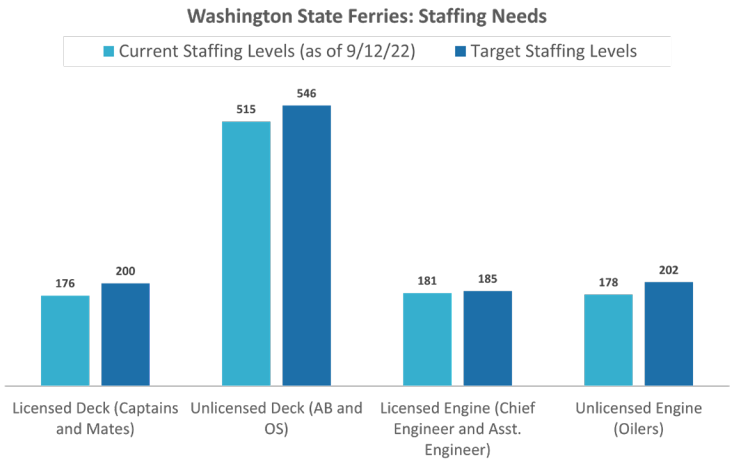
Updated October 11, 2022

Overview

Washington State Ferries is incrementally adding service to meet increasing demand as the ferry system continues to recover from the pandemic. A return to full capacity of the system is dependent on several variables, including:

- The trajectory of the pandemic and ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the workforce.
- Ridership levels and accommodating the seasonal increase in summer peak season ridership.
- The ability of WSF to recruit, hire and train new employees to fill key positions.
- The rate of retirements and other separations that contribute to overall staffing levels.
- Lack of vessels due to unanticipated breakdowns and an aging fleet.

Progress toward reaching targeted staffing levels



Service Restoration Process

1 Route Prioritization Stage
Confirm route prioritization

2 Alternate Service Stage
Review resources to determine when the route can reliably be restored

Crewing Availability ✓ Vessel Availability ✓

Are all thresholds met?

YES → *Continue monitoring metrics & progressing towards service goals*

NO

3 Trial Service Stage
Monitor reliability and track when the route meets 95% reliability over a three week period

Reliability ✓

Is threshold met?

YES → *Continue trial period*

NO

4 Restored Service Stage
Route is restored to regular service levels

Is service restored to original levels for ALL routes?

YES → *Continue operating regular season schedules on all routes; strive for 99% reliability systemwide*

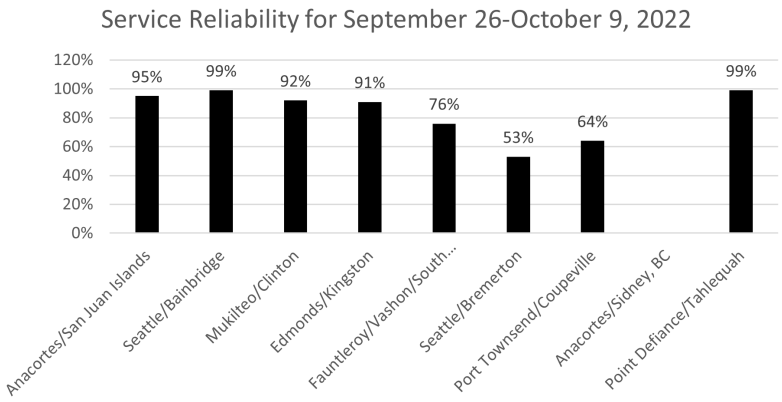
NO → *Return to Stage 1 (Route Prioritization) and determine when the next route on the list can be restored*

Ferry Service Restoration

WSF has prioritized ferry routes based on ridership, service performance, availability and directness of travel alternatives, and vessel and crew availability.

Service Reliability

During the trial stage, WSF's target is 95% reliability over three weeks before considering a route fully restored. This chart illustrates current reliability for all routes based on a regular schedule.



Route	Restoration Stage
Anacortes/ San Juan Islands	4 Regular Service
Seattle/ Bainbridge	4 Regular Service
Mukilteo/Clinton	4 Regular Service
Edmonds/Kingston	2 Alternate Service
Fauntleroy/ Vashon/ Southworth	2 Alternate Service
Seattle/ Bremerton	2 Alternate Service
Port Townsend/ Coupeville	2 Alternate Service
Anacortes/ Sidney, B.C.	No Service
Point Defiance/ Tahlequah	Regular Service

Upcoming Service Changes

- WSF plans to begin trialing full service on the Edmonds/Kingston route later this year.
- The next three routes – Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth, Seattle/Bremerton and Port Townsend/Coupeville – likely will not be restored to regular service until Spring 2023. The Anacortes/Sidney, B.C. route will be restored in Summer 2023 at the earliest.

Systemwide Ridership

Total 2022 ridership compared to previous years (data updated as of 10/9/22)

