



KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

The Province will be conducting dredging activities in the West Arm of Kootenay Lake from September 24 to November 30, 2019, to ensure the long-term navigational safety of the Kootenay Lake Ferry service. During this time, dredging with heavy machinery will take place from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Saturday.

After-hours dredging may be required between October 21 and November 4, but will be avoided if at all possible. Local residents will be informed if such work is required.

Dredging will not impact the operation of the Kootenay Lake Ferry service. The Province will continue to assess and monitor conditions as the operation progresses to ensure the safety of all ferry users, crew members, and contractors. Ferry users can visit [DriveBC](#) for real-time sailing updates.

This dredging work is part of the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project, which is intended to improve the safety and efficiency of the ferry service. The work will involve dredging at three shallow areas along the channel that could impact the safe navigation of vessels through the West Arm. Once complete, spring low water levels will no longer result in service disruptions to ferry users.

Material dredged from the shallows will be safely deposited in the main body of Kootenay Lake, as approved by all relevant regulatory bodies. The Province remains committed to completing this work in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and with minimal impact to the environment and habitat.

BACKGROUND

In 2016 and 2018, the Province consulted with ferry users, area residents and businesses about proposed improvements to the service, safety and infrastructure of the Kootenay Lake Ferry.

The Province made key changes to the final project plan after considering the input received, along with technical, environmental and financial considerations. Some of these considerations were documented in the 2018 Consideration Memo that can be found on the project website.

In April 2019, the Province, with funding support from the Government of Canada, announced that safety and efficiency improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service will be implemented beginning in the Fall of 2019.

The project will involve the procurement of a new right-sized electric-ready ferry, safety and amenity improvements to both the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals, and minor dredging in the west arm of Kootenay Lake.

Collectively, these improvements will provide ferry users with a safer and more reliable ferry service as well as contribute to the Province's goal of employing electric propulsion on all inland ferries by 2040.

For updates or to find more information about the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferryproject.