

Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project

Project Update - April 2023



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

The Kootenay Lake Ferry Services Improvements Project is delivering a safer and more reliable ferry service for users, including improvements to the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals which completed in summer 2022. This Project Update provides progress information about assembly of the new vessel.

Terminal Improvements

With the terminal improvements now complete, future project updates will focus entirely on the progress of the new vessel. Details on the terminal improvements are available on the [project website](#) and in the [August 2022 Project Update](#).

New Vessel

The construction of the new Kootenay Lake ferry, which is being built in a temporary shipyard near Nelson, B.C., is ongoing. However, the delivery of the new vessel to the Ministry is delayed due to various challenges arising from the pandemic, global supply chain issues and the impacts of geopolitical events.

This delay will result in the vessel being delivered at the end of 2024 and entering service in 2025 instead of 2024 as previously scheduled.

In the next stage of the project, the ship's components will be fully assembled, and the vessel will be floated near the temporary shipyard. Outfitting of the mechanical, electrical, and control systems and interior components will continue throughout this year and into next; followed by sea trials before completion of the vessel at the end of 2024.

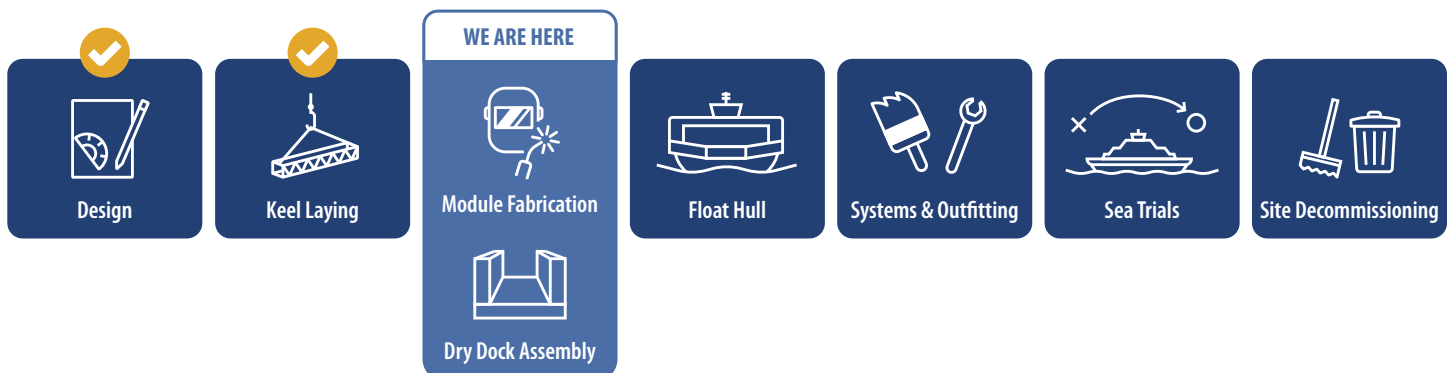


The bulk of the vessel hull assembled on the floating dry dock.

The new ferry will welcome passengers when it starts service in 2025. In the meantime, ferry service on Kootenay Lake is expected to continue without interruption.

The Ministry and DB Contractor remain committed to delivering a high-quality vessel that will meet the needs of the local community for many years to come. Further updates on the project's progress will be provided as the construction of the new Kootenay Lake ferry continues.

Vessel Design and Construction





The bow section of the vessel on temporary supports ready for assembly to the main hull on the floating dry dock.



The propellers ready for installation.



Artist's rendering of the new electric-ready vessel.

Kootenay Lake Ferry Service

Please visit gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferry to view the schedule and current conditions and events at the terminals.

Did you know?

In line with the Province's aim to electrify 100% of its inland ferry fleet, the new vessel will be built with all the systems, equipment, and components for electric propulsion alongside diesel engines. Once shore power is in place and the technology has been tested for reliable daily use, a full conversion will be made from diesel to electric propulsion.



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](#).

In April 2019, the Province, with funding support from the Government of Canada, announced safety and efficiency improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service.

The project involves the procurement of a new right-sized electric-ready vessel, safety and amenity improvements to both the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals, and now-completed 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.

For more information about the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements, please visit

www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferryproject