

# Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project

## Project Update - December 2022



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

This past summer, improvement work at the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals was completed. The project delivered improved amenities, more parking, and better access at the terminals. For more details on these improvements, please see the [August 2022 Project Update](#).



The repaved and newly upgraded Balfour terminal.

### New Vessel

In September 2020, Western Pacific Marine Ltd. was awarded the contract to design and build the new ferry.

The new electric-ready vessel is currently being assembled at a temporary shipyard in Nelson, B.C. The new vessel will more than double the capacity of the MV Balfour, which it will replace.

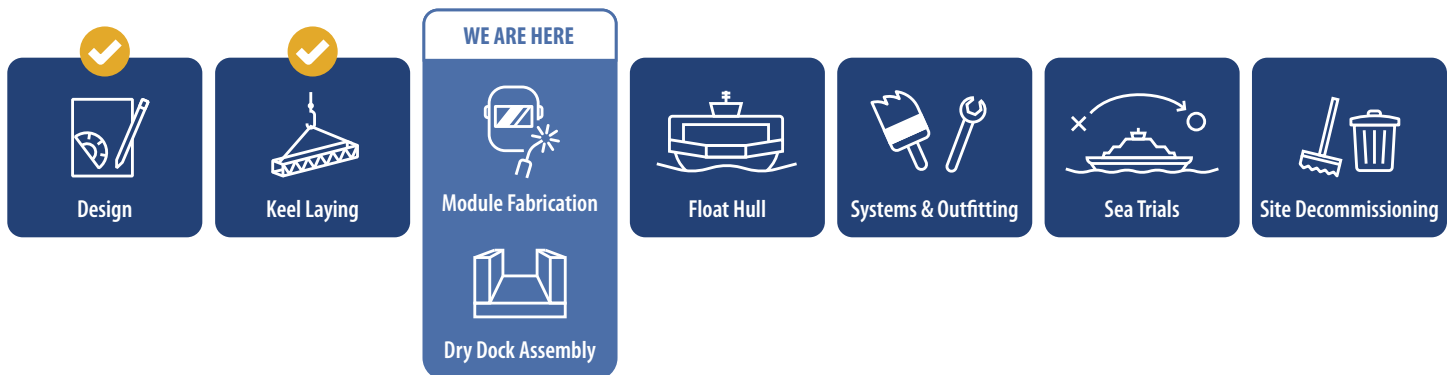
Fabrication and assembly of the new vessel's hull continues to progress. Work is also underway on the superstructure, and electrical and auxiliary systems.

Major milestones for vessel assembly are just around the corner, as several important components which had been delayed by global supply chain issues are arriving on site, including the ship's main engines and thruster units.

The vessel is expected to move to the next stage of construction over the coming months; once the ship's hull is fully assembled, the hull will be floated just offshore near the temporary shipyard. It will remain moored there while it is outfitted with mechanical, electrical, and control systems and interior components.

The new vessel is scheduled to be completed in 2024. In the meantime, ferry service on Kootenay Lake is expected to continue without interruption.

### Vessel Design and Construction

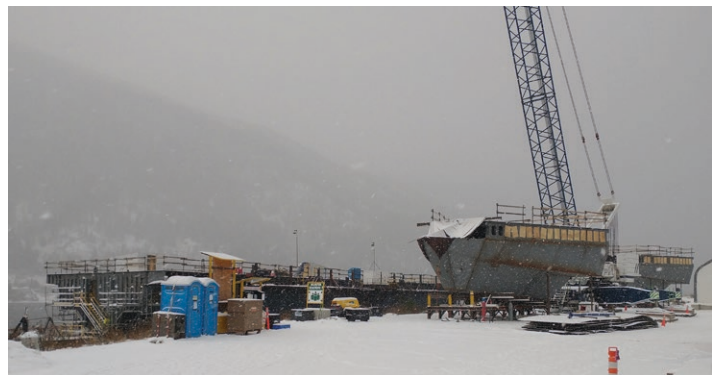




*Fabrication of steel components onshore at the assembly site.*



*Vessel hull assembly on the drydock.*



*Vessel hull fabrication ongoing as winter sets in near Nelson.*



*Artists rendering of the new electric-ready vessel.*

## **Kootenay Lake Ferry Service**

The ferry service continues to operate as usual now that construction has completed.

To view the schedule and current conditions and events at the terminals, please visit [www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferry](http://www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferry)

### **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.