



Ferry Notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2026

Jenn Rogers, Communications and Engagement Manager, Skagit County
jrogers@co.skagit.wa.us · 360-416-1300

Guemes Ferry Weekend Update

Pier-Side Maintenance Progress

We are on day five of our two-week pier-side maintenance period and work is moving along at our contractor's facility. The repair activities are on schedule and within budget.

The contractor work items from this week include:

- Prepped and primed the bulwarks (the sidewalls along the car deck).
- Removed all the steel on the car deck that needs to be replaced and cut the new steel plates for replacement. These new plates were inspected and signed off for welding by the U.S. Coast Guard today. The welding of the new plates starts today and will be finished by early next week. Final weld testing will occur next Wednesday.
- Removed all three of the fire pumps on the vessel. We have reinstalled two new fire pumps so far and the third pump will be installed next week.

Chief Engineer Joe Greene and our Captains have completed several work items as well including:

- Replaced the clutch cable wiring in the machinery spaces.
- Relocated the fan switches.
- Installed new electrical cabling for the transmission clutch solenoids.
- Inspected the flame screens on fuel, ballast, and void vent piping. After a thorough inspection, we found that these screens did not require replacement at this time.



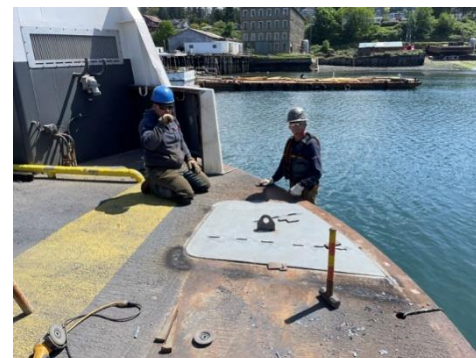
Steel removal from the car deck.



M/V Guemes docked at our contractor's facility in Anacortes.



Contractors removing the car deck steel.



Fitting the new steel plates on the car deck.

We will share more updates on the work being done in our update next week!

Guemes Island Parking Reminders

As a reminder, angle parking is not permitted during the pier-side maintenance period in the Guemes Island ferry holding lane. Only parallel parking is permitted in this area. The Skagit County Sheriff's Office visited Guemes Island this week to encourage riders to abide by the new parking requirements and they will be out on the Island next week. The deputies would like to remind drivers on the island to not deface county signs or property or move A.D.A. reserved parking signs, and to ensure license tabs are kept up to date.

Angle parking has been permitted during previous outages, but current roadway design and safety standards do not allow angle parking in locations where it would reduce lane width, limit visibility, or restrict emergency access. Angled parking within the ferry holding lane does not comply with these standards as it is not deep enough to keep vehicles out of the travel lane coming down the hill. It also violates the Revised Code of Washington 46.61.575 disallowing angled parking on federal-aid roads, of which Guemes Island Road is included. The existing 12-foot-wide ferry holding lane is more than wide enough, however, for parallel parking.

As a result, and to remain compliant with these standards, **angle parking is not be allowed.**

Other important things to keep in mind regarding parking:

- At the beginning of the ferry holding lanes in Anacortes and on Guemes Island, you will see signs indicating **“Authorized Vehicles Only.”** These spaces are reserved for essential service providers who need reliable access to maintain continuity of services for island residents. Keeping these areas clear ensures they can continue to operate efficiently during the outage.
- Do not park in the **school bus loading and parking zones.** These areas must remain open for student transportation and safety.
- Obey all parking laws and adhere to time limits. Parking areas will be monitored, and vehicles may be ticketed and/or towed. Keep in mind that parking illegally or leaving vehicles in time-limited areas for extended periods reduces available space for those who genuinely need to use these lots during the outage. We want to ensure parking remains accessible for everyone who relies on it.
- We understand that accessible parking is especially important during the outage, and we know these spaces fill quickly. To support those who need them, we have temporarily added additional accessible parking stalls for the duration of the maintenance period.

Peak Season Begins May 20 – Peak Tickets Now Available for Purchase

As a reminder, peak season starts on May 20. Nonpeak tickets cannot be used from May 20 through September 30. Peak season tickets are now available to purchase, along with nonpeak tickets, on our website, mobile app, and the Anacortes terminal ticket kiosk.



Sheriff's Office brought over our small motorcycle this week to help operations on the Island.