



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

DATE: October 20, 2014
TO: Mark Gorman, Municipal Administrator
Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Marlene Campbell, Government Relations Director
SUBJECT: Final 2015 Summer AMHS Ferry Schedule for Sitka

The final Alaska Marine Highway Summer 2015 ferry schedule is out. It is very similar to several past summers despite comments from Sitka and other communities requesting summer service levels begin in June rather than just July/August. Sitka's summer 2015 ferry schedule is:

May 1-15: Columbia (Col) Tues, Southbound (S)
Matanuska (Mat) Sun, Northbound (N)
May 16-June 30: Col Tues, S
Mat Sun, N
Fairweather (Fw) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Juneau-Sitka-Juneau (shuttle)
July 1-September 15: Mat Mon, S
Taku Tues, N
Col Tues, S
Taku Sat, S
Fw Shuttle Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun
September 15-30: Col Tues S
Mat Sun N
Fw Shuttle Mon

Although July and August service are excellent (one or two ferries stopping in Sitka every day), Sitka and other ports with limited May and June service are disadvantaged. Since Lynn Canal is receiving 8 stops per week from May 15 through September, and every ferry stops in Juneau and Ketchikan, they are not adversely impacted. Based on several years of delay until July of full summer service to Sitka and smaller communities, this discrepancy is unlikely to change without substantial regional political pressure.

I am providing this summary of the final Summer ferry schedule because it is very difficult to determine what actual service schedule will be implemented after each comment period. I requested the 7 spider charts of all Summer Schedule 2015 Southeast sailings and will provide them on request. They are difficult to follow but show all the actual vessel patterns and community service levels. Let me know if you'd like a set (e-mail campbell@cityofsitka.com; phone 747-1855).

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