

From the Island Manager:

Friday, September 17: This morning Coast Guard Lt. Winters arrived for the USCG inspection, which was brief, and appeared to be entirely satisfactory. Next to the water system, the ferry is members' biggest asset, and it's great to hear comments like "For a 21 year old vessel, it's in great shape." That speaks well of the care taken by our crew. Steve and Kevin have returned to the island, but here are the two guys who are there every day: Deck Hand Donnie Surratt and Sr. Captain John Farris.



The next photo shows you how the boat is draped to prevent dust escaping, as the ends of the ferry are being sandblasted to apply new nonskid surface, a major area of wear.



That's inside the tent.



From the center of the car deck.

Tacoma Diesel employees are still working on the engine rebuild. Here's one about to go below deck. He must like his work....



In addition to the engine rebuild as a major chunk of drydock expense, the ferry will receive new propeller shafts. Remember our statistics from 2009? Over 4000 trips and 66,000 passengers, 365 days a year.

That's a lot of wear and tear.

And finally, here is the Charlie Wells draped (not an artwork by Christo!) for the sand blasting on each end. Note the areas of spot sanding on the hull, which will be painted, and the zincs replaced.



By all accounts, the work is going well, the marine surveyor had praise for the boat's condition (report to follow), and the news about a return to service may be coming after the weekend.

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