

# WSF Internal Structural Exams

January 10, 2008

JTC Update January 10, 2008

## **Background Information:**

After the Steel Electrics were taken out of service, additional scrutiny was placed on the Ferry system by the USCG. In mid-December, the USCG notified WSF that 14 vessels would need immediate internal inspections performed. In order to minimize service interruptions, inspections were performed during late night hours after the daily operating schedules were completed.

14 vessels were identified as needing the internal inspections. The USCG put a 12 day requirement on the inspections. Inspections began on December 13 and the first round of 12 vessels was completed December 23. Two additional vessels completed their inspections on December 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Excluded from the inspections -
- 3 MK II vessels, newest in the fleet
  - MV Elwha, inspection in Nov
  - MV Hyak, was currently in drydock undergoing repairs at Dakota Creek Shipyards
  - MV Hiyu, was currently in drydock undergoing repairs at Dakota Creek Shipyards
  - 4 passenger only vessels

Preparations for the inspections involved cleaning all bilge areas of any standing water / oil. This was accomplished using contracted vendors to clean and pump out the water.

The inspections were conducted with teams utilizing staff from the Port Engineers office, the vessel inspections office and the USCG. As inspections were conducted, areas were identified that needed additional preparation by hand cleaning and scaling. Follow on inspections were conducted. The inspections included measuring hull thickness using Ultra-sounding technology and the use of hand held pit gauges. This work was conducted in the engine rooms, tank rooms, void spaces and the steering gear rooms.

## **Results / Next Steps**

Results of ISE's:

- 4 Vessels with no steel replacement requirements: Klahowya, Kittitas, Sealth, Issaquah
- 5 vessels with steel repair and/or replacement due at next scheduled drydocking: Spokane, Yakima, Kitsap, Walla Walla, Cathlamet
- 1 vessel with further inspection and preservation needed at next scheduled drydocking: Chelan
- 3 vessels with identified areas of hull steel repair / replacement and with 120 Day requirement: E-State, Kaleetan, Tillikum
- 1 vessel with identified areas of hull steel repair / replacement with a prior to return to service requirement: Rhododendron

**Next Steps:** Investigating drydock availability in Canada and meeting with the USCG.