

Return to sequential loading and schedule update

Over the past several months, COVID-19 has certainly influenced all our personal and professional lives. At Marine Atlantic, we adjusted many aspects of our service to protect the health and safety of our customers and employees, while ensuring our essential ferry service could remain in operation. By working together, we navigated many of the challenges that were presented by the pandemic and are continuing to evolve our processes to adjust to our 'new normal' while supporting the transportation needs of our customers.

As part of our efforts to move closer to normal operations, Marine Atlantic will be returning to regular sequence order loading processes. Effective Monday, October 5, commercial units will be moved on a first-come, first-served basis as was past practice. This means specific goods will no longer be given special priority.

On a daily basis, our team works to ensure each commercial unit arrives at its destination as quickly as possible. Our available capacity has allowed us to move both priority and non-priority goods within 1 to 2 sailings after their arrival at our terminals. The return to sequence order loading is not anticipated to negatively impact the movement of goods.

We will also resume our premium booking service, which allows a limited number of commercial units to reserve space on each sailing for an additional fee. Reservations for premium bookings will be accepted starting on Friday, October 2, for sailings commencing on Monday, October 5. The return of the premium booking service will give customers another option for more time-sensitive loads.

We also recognize the fall period can present weather-related challenges, which may be amplified this year by the evolving situation related to the pandemic. We will continue to monitor and communicate with commercial customers as we work to minimize impacts and make schedule adjustments to move traffic efficiently both before and after weather events.

We thank you for your continued efforts and cooperation, as well as the support you have shown our staff over the past few months as we work together in navigating through these turbulent times.

Schedule Update

As per our ongoing vessel preventative maintenance program, we will be undertaking drydock activities during the fall season.

The MV *Highlanders* and MV *Atlantic Vision* were both scheduled to have work done earlier this year but was postponed due to the pandemic. This work is now scheduled to take place in the months ahead.

The MV *Highlanders* will begin dockside work on October 12 and then head to drydock until mid-late November. During this period, the MV *Atlantic Vision* will enter service. Following the return of the MV *Highlanders*, the MV *Atlantic Vision* will depart for drydock which is expected to last until late December. Upon its return, the vessel will enter layup mode until spring 2021.

Due to current traffic demand, the MV *Leif Ericson* will remain in service until October 15 maintaining the current schedule for restricted sailings.

- From North Sydney:
 - RC mode at 17:45 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
 - RR mode at 17:45 on Wednesdays
- From Port aux Basques:
 - RC mode at 06:30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
 - RR Mode at 06:30 on Thursday, October 8; RC Mode on October 1

Once the MV *Leif Ericson* goes into standby mode, we will be adding a third weekly restricted sailing to the schedule out of each port. This will remain in effect until March 30, 2021. The additional sailings will be in Single R mode and depart North Sydney on Thursdays at 11:45 and depart Port aux Basques on Fridays at 11:45. This is designed to provide a more predictable service for commercial units carrying dangerous goods.

The full [commercial schedule](#) is available on our website.