



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## National Park Service News Release

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**Contact:** Dan Brown, Superintendent, 850-934-2600

### National Park Service Awards Contract to Build Ferry Boats

Superintendent Dan Brown announced today that the National Park Service has awarded the contract for the design, construction and delivery of two 150 passenger catamaran ferry boats to All American Marine, located in Bellingham, Washington. The boats will be used for the Pensacola Bay passenger ferry service, scheduled to start in March 2017.

“We’re excited to be one step closer to the long-standing goal of a ferry service for Pensacola Bay,” said Brown. “The selection process for the boat builder was arduous, evaluating numerous proposals from throughout the country and the Gulf region. The emphasis was on high quality construction, passenger comfort, ease and low cost of maintenance and repair, reliability, and longevity.” The aluminum ferries will have a climate controlled enclosed main deck and a shaded upper deck for observation, will be equipped with a snack bar for food and beverage service, restrooms, passenger storage, flat screen TVs and a sound system for on-board interpretation by NPS rangers. The boats will be fully accessible, meeting all ADA standards, and will have bike racks for those wishing to explore Fort Pickens or Santa Rosa Island by bicycle. The passenger ferry service will operate in Pensacola Bay between the City of Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore through an NPS concessions contract. The 35 to 45 minute excursion between landing sites will have a normal cruising speed of 12 knots, enabling passengers to observe wildlife while learning about the rich history of Pensacola Bay. Much of the route will be within the waters of the National Seashore, which extend into the Santa Rosa Sound and Pensacola Bay to the Intracoastal Waterway. The ferry ticket will offer “hop-on, hop-off” privileges, allowing passengers to travel all legs of the route during the day for a single ticket.

Funding for the \$5 million+ contract was provided by Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding as a result of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, with the balance from the Federal Lands Transportation Program that funds NPS Alternative Transportation projects.

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*About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 407 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*