Calculation of charter rates for vessels owned by the Washington state ferry system. Pursuant to chapter 323, Laws of 1997, vessels owned by the Washington state ferry system may be made available for charter subject to operational availability. Execution of a charter agreement as set forth in the statute must precede a commitment to charter. The actual hourly vessel operating costs for establishing the rates to be charged for vessel charters are calculated by the Washington state ferry system and published on its public website, with updates on an annual or other periodic basis.

The rate for an individual charter will be calculated by:

1. Multiplying the actual hourly operating cost for the vessel that is chartered by the number of hours, or fraction thereof, for which the vessel is chartered;

2. Adding labor costs, mileage and per diem expenses to determine the total actual cost if the particular charter requires a crew callout; and

3. Increasing the total actual cost calculated pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section by an appropriate profit margin based on market conditions, and rounding to the nearest fifty dollars.

In the case of charters for the transport of hazardous materials, the transporter is required to pay for all legs necessary to complete the charter, even if the vessel is simultaneously engaged in an operational voyage on behalf of the Washington state ferry system.