Washington State Transportation Commission

2014 Ferry Naming Quick Poll – FROG & VOWS Survey

Oct. 2014

Washington State Transportation Commission

Research Assurance LLC

Methodology

- A total of 5,942 online interviews were completed between October 15, 2014 and October 22, 2015 using both the Voice of Washington State (VOWS) and Ferry Riders Opinion Group (FROG) panels.
- A total of 3,727 surveys were completed by VOWS panel and an additional 2,215 surveys completed by the FROG panel.
- There was no weighting done within or between the VOWS or FROG data sets. The results are thus representative only of those people that answered the quick poll.
- The ferry names for consideration were rotated across the total number of surveys so that each name showed up on top an equal number of times.

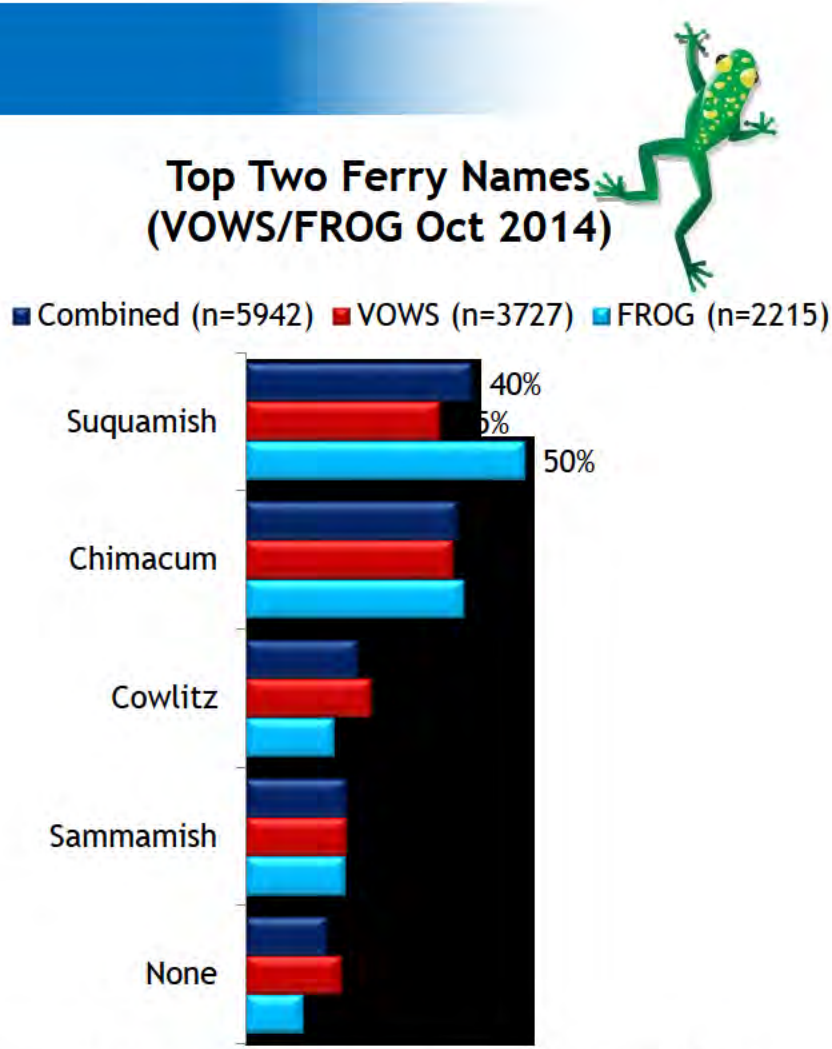
Ferry Naming - 2014

SUQUAMISH The ancestral Suquamish have lived in Central Puget Sound for approximately 10,000 years. The major Suquamish winter village was at Old Man House on the shoreline of Agate Passage at d'suq'wub meaning "clear salt water." The Suquamish name translates into the "people of the clear salt water." Chief Seattle was an ancestral leader of the Suquamish Tribe, born in 1786 at the Old Man House Village in Suquamish

SAMMAMISH The Sammamish people were a Coast Salish Native American tribe in the Sammamish River Valley. Sammamish is a blend of two Native American words – samena, which means hunter and mish, which means people. The largest Sammamish village was tlah-WAH-dees at the mouth of the Sammamish River. In 1855, the United States government signed the Treaty of Point Elliott with the leaders of most of the Puget Sound Tribes and they were relocated. Descendants of the Sammamish dispersed into other tribes, including the Suquamish, Snoqualmie and Tulalip.

CHIMACUM Chimacum was one of the least known tribes in Washington State. Because their language was not part of the larger Salish language found throughout the Puget Sound, they were culturally unique from the dominant tribes in the area. According to Quileute tradition, the Chimacum were a remnant of the Quileute band. Because of disease and war their numbers were less than 100 by the mid-eighteen hundreds, when their treaty was signed. The tribe is now extinct, but some members of the S'Klallam and Skokomish tribes can trace their ancestry back to the Chemakum tribe.

COWLITZ The Cowlitz tribe provided key assistance with pioneer transportation and commercial activities in what some historians refer to as the Cowlitz Corridor which linked the Columbia River valley with South Puget Sound communities long before Washington Territory was established. The Washington Territorial Legislature honored the tribe by naming one of our earliest counties for them. This county includes a broad flood plain located at the mouth of the Cowlitz River at the Columbia River that was a swamp in pre-European settlement days which some authorities believe was the source for the meaning of the name Cowlitz, which is "capturing medicine spirit."



QUESTION: *The Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) recently announced it is seeking name proposals for the next 144-car ferry currently under construction. In order for a name to be considered, the WSTC requires the proposed names demonstrate: strong public support; have statewide meaning and significance; and be a suitable name for a Washington State ferry. Specifically, names should represent such things as: state adopted symbols, tribal names, names of bodies of water, geographic locations, cities, counties, relate to nautical heritage, etc. Four proposed names are under consideration. They are listed below in no particular order, along with a short explanation of each. The WSTC will make the final decision at their meeting in November. Before it does, it wants to know what Washington State citizens think. Based on this list below, what would be your top 2 choices?*

THANK YOU!

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