

Steve Nevey

Assistant Secretary / Executive Director

Washington State Ferries

Steve is a seasoned mariner, whose professional journey began at the Warsash Maritime Academy in Southampton, England, supported by a Chevron scholarship, which paved the way for his training as a deck officer. During his four-year tenure at Warsash, he alternated between rigorous academic studies in maritime operations and hands-on apprenticeship aboard Chevron ships. Post-graduation, Steve sailed as a deck officer on Chevron vessels, eventually leading him to diverse maritime endeavors ranging from ferries in Scotland to private yachts in the Caribbean and large Cruise Ships. Steve's seagoing career has taken him to all seven continents.



In 2008, Steve's trajectory shifted when he was seconded to Holland America's Seattle office, contributing his expertise to a pivotal ship retrofit project. This marked his transition to shoreside marine management, where he cultivated a multifaceted skill set encompassing ship retrofits, fuel-saving initiatives, crew scheduling, and global operations management. Notably, Steve played a pivotal role in Holland America's pandemic response, including orchestrating the repatriations of thousands of crew members worldwide amidst unprecedented global challenges.

Joining Washington State Ferries in 2021 as the Director of Operations, Steve harnessed his extensive maritime background to navigate the restoration of operations post-pandemic while fortifying the system for long-term resilience. He spearheaded the establishment of the 'Office of Operational Excellence,' focusing on innovative solutions to complex operational challenges. Steve's initiatives, including the AB (Able-bodied Sailor) to Mate program and scholarship partnerships with maritime institutions, have fostered pathways for career advancement and addressed critical workforce needs.

In March 2024, Steve was appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary / Executive Director of Washington State Ferries, marking a pivotal milestone in his maritime career. For Steve, leading the men and women of the iconic Washington State Ferries, the largest ferry system in the United States, is an honor of a lifetime. Embracing this role with fervor and dedication, he remains steadfast in his commitment to steering WSF towards continued excellence and innovation in maritime transportation.

Originally from the West Midlands in England, Steve has called the Pacific Northwest home since 2008, proudly becoming a U.S. citizen in 2017. Currently residing in the Seattle area with his wife Nicole and two daughters, he enjoys both playing and watching soccer.