

Water Taxi Schedule Script Generator

How-To Guide - v2.1.4

This guide provides step-by-step instructions for the Metro Web Team on how to use the Water Taxi Schedule Script Generator tools for Vashon and West Seattle. The current version supports separate current and next service periods, date-specific schedule overrides, calendar release timing for the next schedule, and generated-script support for service-change alerts.

1. Enter developer information

- In the Developer section, select your name from the dropdown list.
- Selecting a name enables the Generate, Export, Copy, and Download controls.
- Your selection is saved in local storage for the next time you use the tool.

2. Confirm the destination

- Under Water Taxi service, confirm that the destination matches the tool you are editing: Vashon or West Seattle.
- Use the matching destination tool and settings file. Do not import Vashon settings into West Seattle or West Seattle settings into Vashon.

3. Import the previous settings

- Important: Load the most recent settings JSON file from the shared folder before making changes.
- Importing the latest file continues from the last saved work and helps prevent duplicate or conflicting changes.
- If this is a fresh setup and no settings file exists, the tool can continue from its configured defaults.
- The tool remembers a locally cached preset, but the shared exported JSON should remain the team's handoff record.

4. Set up the service periods

The generator can include two Water Taxi service periods at the same time: the current service and an optional next service change. Each period can have its own date range and default schedule groups.

- Current service is required.

- Use "Include next service change" when the next schedule is ready to be built into the generated script.
- Use "Service period to edit" to switch between the current and next service periods.
- Enter the Start date and End date for the selected service period.
- Default schedules belong to the selected service period, so verify which period is selected before editing them.
- Water Taxi service-change dates are independent of Metro bus service-change dates.

Calendar release date for the next service

- When the next service period is selected, use "Show next service in calendar starting" to control when customers can begin selecting dates in the next schedule.
- Before that date, the customer calendar stops at the end of the current service period even though the next schedule is already included in the generated JavaScript.
- On the calendar release date, the date picker automatically expands through the end of the next service period.
- Leave the field blank if the next service schedule should be selectable immediately.
- This setting controls calendar availability only; it does not remove the next schedule from the generated script.

5. Manage schedule settings

Open each Schedule settings card to add, edit, or remove schedule information.

Default schedules

- Define day-of-week groups that share the same schedule table, such as Monday-Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.
- Default schedules apply only to the service period currently selected in the Service periods section.
- The next service period can use different day groupings from the current period.
- Each group needs at least one selected day. Avoid duplicate day groupings.

Special service

- Use for dates with a unique schedule, such as special events or other one-day schedule changes.
- With "Show only within date range" checked, entries outside the combined included service-period range are hidden.
- Hidden/out-of-range entries are not included in the generated script.
- Uncheck the filter when you need to review entries outside the active range.

Holidays

- Use for holidays when Water Taxi follows a schedule that differs from the normal day-of-week schedule.
- With "Show only within date range" checked, the list is limited to holidays within the included service-period range.
- You can uncheck the filter to review all available holiday entries or add another date when needed.
- Hidden/out-of-range entries are not included in the generated script.

No sailing days

- Use for dates when Water Taxi does not operate, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day.
- With "Show only within date range" checked, the list is limited to no-sailing dates within the included service-period range.
- Hidden/out-of-range entries are not included in the generated script.

Understanding date-range filtering

- When filtering is active, summary counts show "X of Y entries."
- Rows are hidden or shown immediately when the filter is changed.
- Counts and hidden states update when service-period dates or the included next service period change.
- Only non-hidden entries are written into the generated JavaScript.

Modal controls

- Each Special service, Holiday, or No sailing row requires both a Date and a Description.
- Add row - inserts a new entry.
- Trash icon - removes a row.
- Save - applies the changes to the tool.
- Cancel - discards unsaved changes.

6. Generate the script

- After reviewing the service periods, default schedules, special dates, holidays, no-sailing days, and filters, click Generate script.
- The generated JavaScript appears in the Generated script panel.
- The generator also displays a Required containers checklist. Confirm that the Sitecore page contains each required schedule-table container.

- Use Copy container markup when you need starter markup for a required container that is not already on the page.
- Recurring schedule container IDs include the service-period ID, which allows current and next schedules to coexist on the page.
- Special-service containers use the specific service date.

7. Download and export

- **Download JS** - saves the generated schedule JavaScript using the tool's predetermined filename. This is the preferred method.
- **Copy JS** - copies the generated JavaScript to the clipboard.
- **Export settings** - saves the complete tool settings as JSON, including both service periods and the next schedule's calendar release date.
- Export settings at the end of every work session so another team member can continue from the same configuration.
- The exported settings filename includes a date/time stamp and developer name. Do not rename the file or alter the timestamp.
- Save the exported JSON in the designated shared folder.

8. Service-change alerts on the Water Taxi page

The generated schedule JavaScript supports page alerts that appear and disappear automatically based on dates. The alert text itself remains manually authored in the Water Taxi page HTML.

- Add the data-service-change-alert attribute to the alert element.
- Use data-show-date="YYYY-MM-DD" for the first day the alert should appear.
- Use data-hide-date="YYYY-MM-DD" for the first day the alert should no longer appear.
- Multiple service-change alerts can be used, allowing an upcoming-schedule message to hand off automatically to a new-schedule-in-effect message.
- Alert timing is based on the actual current date, not the travel date selected in the calendar.
- The calendar release date and alert show date can be the same when you want the announcement and next-schedule preview to begin together.

9. Test before publishing

- Test the current service period and verify several weekday/weekend dates.
- Test the last day of the current service and the first day of the next service.
- Test at least one holiday, no-sailing day, and special-service date when applicable.

- For calendar release timing, temporarily use today's date and a future date to verify that the next schedule becomes selectable at the intended time.
- Test service-change alert show/hide dates in the same way.
- Confirm that the correct heading and schedule table appear for each selected date.
- Test the date picker on mobile as well as desktop. The generated script uses Flatpickr with custom mobile behavior so disabled/unavailable dates remain clear.
- After testing temporary dates, restore the actual production dates before generating the final JavaScript.

10. Tips and best practices

- Always import first and export when finished.
- Confirm the destination before importing settings or generating a script.
- Double-check which service period is selected before changing dates or default schedules.
- Use the optional next service period only after its schedule details are ready.
- Use the calendar release date when the next schedule should be built and published in advance but not yet selectable by customers.
- Keep Special service, Holiday, and No sailing descriptions clear and consistent.
- Review the Required containers checklist whenever schedule groups or special dates change.