

The Virgin Islands Consortium

New St. Croix Ferryboat Garaged After Hitting Rock

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Ernice Gilbert **April 20, 2017**



ST. CROIX -- The QE IV ferryboat, which began operating between St. Croix and St. Thomas on April 4, has been knocked off schedule and will remain down until Saturday, Warren Mosler, the ferryboat's owner, revealed in a post on his Facebook page on Wednesday.

A drive unit of the ferryboat hit a rock while departing the Green Cay marina on Croix on Wednesday. It's currently docked there awaiting parts, according to Mr. Mosler, who said he had ordered the needed parts weeks in advance but they apparently hadn't arrived as of Wednesday.

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The ferryboat has received positive reviews, with passengers lauding the vessel's ride. Residents, in turn, have responded by rewarding the ferryboat with their dollars; Mr. Mosler recently told this reporter that the QE IV was completely booked, which could be partly a result of the carnival season in St. Thomas, as St. Croix residents make their way to the territory's capital for the festive events, and because of the ferry's cheaper fare: \$50 one-way.

After a successful man-overboard demonstration earlier this month, the QE IV made its maiden voyage from St. Croix to Thomas. “[It’s] absolutely wonderful. Couldn’t be happier for everybody that’s been involved with it for this amount of time and the patience of the V.I. community, and Mr. Molser and his crew have been outstanding,” said Jeffery Bisson, vice president of Gold Coast Yachts—builder of the ferryboat—in an interview with The Consortium on April 3.

Since then, the QE IV had been traveling back and forth between the islands, with residents territory-wide showing high interest in the ferryboat.

Below, a video of residents describing their first ride on the QE IV.

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