PRESS RELEASE

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WOODS HOLE – Efforts to replace the Flying Cloud with a chartered vessel to provide service to Nantucket during the annual Christmas Stroll this weekend have been thwarted by worsening weather predictions.

Additional freight service will be available on the Nantucket route however a winter storm warning including threatening high winds through Sunday has now been issued by the National Weather Service.

Under those circumstances a Boston Harbor Cruises high speed vessel, the Athena, will not make the trip from New York City.

The Athena had been chartered to assume the schedule of the Flying Cloud now under repair in Newport, RI after sustaining damage in high seas during a Tuesday night crossing from Hyannis to Nantucket. It is not yet clear how long the vessel will be out of service.

The Steamship Authority has deployed a freight vessel from the Fairhaven facility to help accommodate travelers to Nantucket. The Sankaty, which was out of service undergoing annual maintenance, is expected to arrive in Hyannis by 4 p.m. this afternoon and make at least one round trip to Nantucket today.

The open-deck vessel's passenger capacity is about 290 however the indoor capacity is just under 100.

Steamship Authority CEO Fred Raskin said "while every effort is being made to provide adequate service to Nantucket for this critical weekend festival the weather simply isn't cooperating."

Mr. Raskin said the Sankaty will not make scheduled trips, however will make as many trips as possible, weather permitting, throughout the weekend.

Passengers who have paid reservations for the Flying Cloud this weekend are entitled to a full refund and free round-trip passage to the Christmas Stroll on the boat line's traditional ferries.