

Keep British Columbia Beautiful. Pipe Up Against Enbridge.



Recommendations

- Do not allow the potential destruction of one of Canada's most treasured ecosystems
- Support 50% of Canadians and 80% of British Columbians in opposition of Enbridge's Northern Gateway Pipeline Project.

More than 400 fish species, 108 marine bird species and the economic backbone of thousands of people living in the Haida Gwaii are at risk of destruction with the impending installation of Enbridge's Northern Gateway Pipeline.

The Calgary-based oil company is currently proposing the construction a 1177 km twin pipeline that would carry 525,000 barrels a day of raw bitumen from Alberta's oil sands to the west coast waters of Kitimat, British Columbia.

From there, behemoth tankers would transport the unrefined bitumen through the narrow channels of the Great Bear Sea to market in Asia. The risk of a spill in these northern coastal waters is too high and the consequences too great to allow this pipeline to become a reality.

In December 2013, the Joint Review Panel of Canada's National Energy Board **approved** the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline.



Don't let history repeat itself.

On March 24, 1989 in Prince William Sound, Alaska the Exxon Valdez oil tanker ran aground. 258,000 barrels of oil were released **contaminating at least 1,900 km of shoreline** and an area close to the size of Vancouver Island.

Wildlife mortality included:

- 100,000 – 300,000 marine birds
- 40% of sea otters
- 33 – 40% of impacted orca pods
- 60 – 100% of **all plants and animals** impacted by oil clean-up activities on shore

What's the Risk?

Tankers would be required to navigate 580 km of narrow winding channels through the Great Bear Sea in order to travel to the port in Kitimat and back again; a trip that would be done an average of 220 times per year if the pipeline was operational. The path that these international tankers with foreign crew would cross is difficult for even local seamen to navigate. Complex course changes, reefs, storms, tide rips, fog and extreme waves often make the pass treacherous. A spill caused by one of these tankers is almost inevitable and would devastate surrounding waters.



Tankers that would be navigating the narrow straights to Kitimat are 330 meters long. That's over 3 x the length of a football field.

Repercussions of a Spill

First Nations and Local Residents

A spill would impact many sensitive and commercially important areas along the shoreline. Significant damages to First Nations would be realized due to their dependence on the coastal waters for food, transportation, social and ceremonial purposes.

Coastal Ecosystems

The Great Bear Sea is an area of vital ecological and biological importance. It is home to five species of Pacific salmon, humpback and orca whales, dolphins and porpoises among many other sensitive marine animals. It is a treasured and pristine ecosystem that would be devastated by a tanker spill.

The reality remains that no economic benefit caused by the pipeline could be worth the potential destruction of BC's natural resources and the livelihoods of those who depend on them.

"A spill would devastate fishing, tourism, and traditional subsistence harvesting, which are the backbones of the economy in the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii."

—Art Sterritt, executive director of Coastal First Nations

References

- 1) The Great Bear Sea: No place for a pipeline. (n.d.). Retrieved November 28, 2014, from <http://www.wwf.ca/conservation/oceans/greatbearsea/>
- 2) The Facts. (n.d.). Retrieved November 28, 2014, from <http://coastaltarsands.ca/w1/the-facts/>
- 3) Oil spill in Great Bear Sea would have devastating impacts. (n.d.). Retrieved November 28, 2014, from http://www.coastalfirstnations.ca/sites/default/files/cfn-files-public/oil-tanker-impacts_1.pdf
- 4) Northern Gateway: Pipeline to Problems -The Common Sense Canadian. (n.d.). Retrieved November 28, 2014, from <http://commonsenscanadian.ca/northern-gateway-pipeline-to-problems/>

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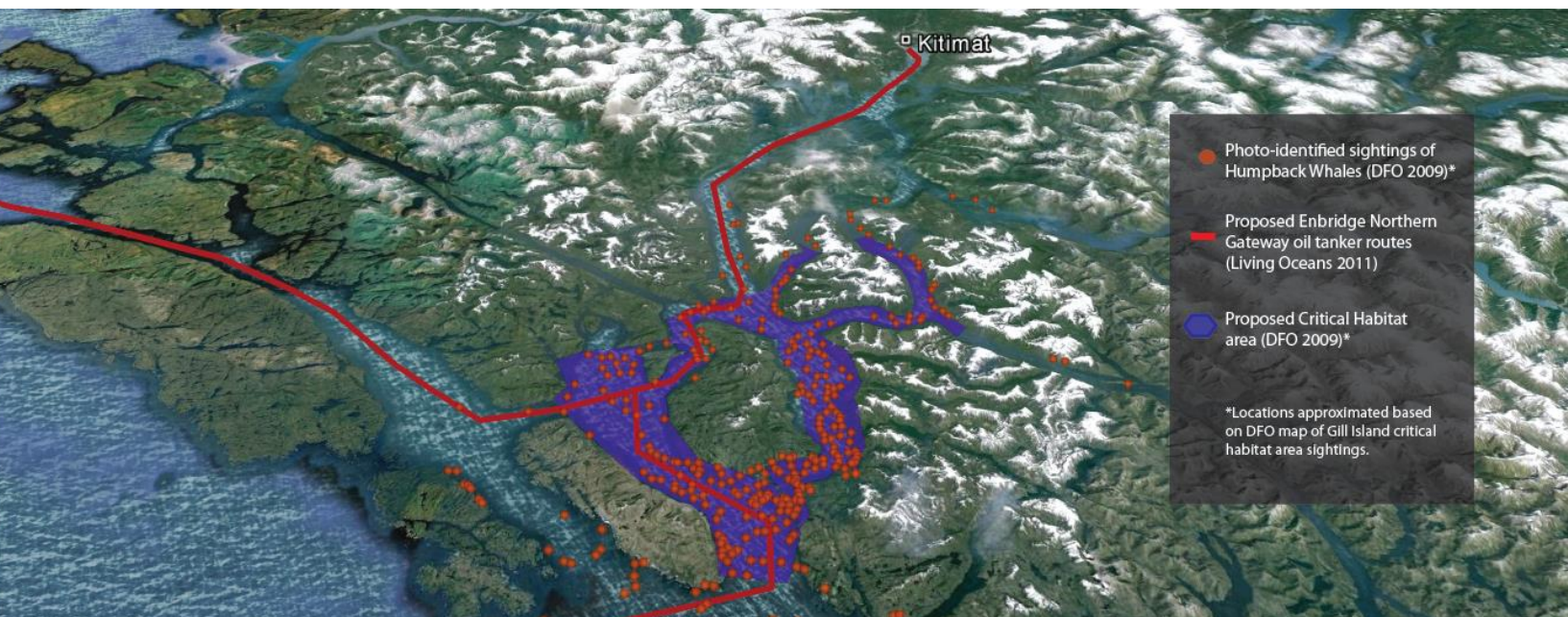


Photo-identified sightings of Humpback Whales (DFO 2009)*

Proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway oil tanker routes (Living Oceans 2011)

Proposed Critical Habitat area (DFO 2009)*

*Locations approximated based on DFO map of Gill Island critical habitat area sightings.

The proposed tanker route overlaps heavily with the habitat humpback whales and many other marine creatures.