

OVERVIEW OF HAISLA NATION CULTURAL EVIDENCE

1. The Haisla Nation is an Aboriginal Nation living at the head of Kitimat Arm and occupying a large Traditional Territory that encompasses all three aspects of the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline project.
2. The Haisla Nation has exclusively used and occupied its Traditional Territory since well before 1846 and continues to do so today. In addition, members of the Haisla Nation rely on the fish, animals and plants in Haisla Nation Territory for various purposes, including nourishment and for medicinal purposes.
3. The proposed pipeline enters the Haisla Nation Territory in the upper Kitimat River valley and roughly parallels the Kitimat River as it flows towards the Kitimat River estuary. Just north of the town of Kitimat, the pipeline route veers away from the Kitimat River towards the west side of Kitimat Arm, where it will terminate in a marine terminal.
4. The marine terminal is proposed for land about 1.8 kilometres north of Haisla Nation Bees IR No. 6. The Haisla Nation selected this land as land it seeks to acquire pursuant to its Treaty negotiations with the federal government and the Province of British Columbia, in a Treaty land proposal provided to government in 2005.
5. The project proposes to load oil onto tankers at the Kitimat terminal and transport the oil by tankers along Kitimat Arm and Douglas Channel, and eventually into open water.
6. The Haisla Nation has a culture that is rooted in strong stewardship concepts. This culture is also heavily dependent on traditional foods that are caught or gathered in Haisla Nation Territory, including along the proposed pipeline route, near the marine terminal, along the tanker route, and in waters that are potentially exposed to a spill in these areas. The Haisla people rely on their traditional foods to nurture their physical and cultural health. Many Haisla eat fish every day, sometimes twice a day.

7. The Haisla Nation Health Centre and the Haisla Fisheries Commission together operate the Haisla Community Food Fishery. This program provides traditional foods to Haisla members who cannot obtain this food for themselves, and supplements fishing and gathering done by Haisla Nation individuals and families.
8. The traditional Haisla foods feature centrally in Haisla culture. Important cultural events, such as the transfer of a name, occur at a feast at which the attendees witness the event. Haisla traditional foods are served at such feasts. These foods are, wherever possible, gathered locally.
9. The very acts of gathering and processing traditional foods are central to Haisla culture. The harvesting and processing of traditional foods plays a central role in the transmission of Haisla culture and ways from one generation to the next. It is a time for sharing language, for sharing knowledge between generations, and for sharing the stories and concepts associated with Haisla traditional *nuyem* – the Haisla law – that governs the relationship of the Haisla people to their lands and resources.
10. The Haisla Nation asserts Aboriginal title to the lands required for the proposed project for the pipeline right-of-way and the marine terminal. The issuing of permits or approvals that result in the alienation of this land would be an infringement of Haisla Nation Aboriginal title.
11. The proposed project will have a number of identified and anticipated impacts on Haisla Nation Territory, including the alienation of Aboriginal title lands, the destruction of fish habitat, the clearing of vegetation, and destruction of wetlands. These impacts in turn will affect the availability of land and resources to the Haisla, impacting both Haisla Nation aboriginal title and aboriginal rights.
12. Haisla Nation Territory has been impacted by past developments in a way that has had negative consequences on Haisla traditional foods. One such development was the construction of the Eurocan Pulp & Paper Mill in 1970. The provincial government assured the Haisla Nation that the Kitimat River would not be affected. Within a year, the Kitimat River oolichan were tainted to the extent that they became unpalatable to the Haisla people. Since that time, the Haisla Nation has worked tirelessly to eliminate the negative impacts of industrial development on the Kitimat River. This has included participation in river rehabilitation and habitat compensation programs, as well as ensuring that the pollution sources were eliminated, to the extent possible. Two years ago, the Eurocan Pulp & Paper Mill closed, eliminating the most significant source of pollution in the Kitimat River.

13. In addition, the proposed project carries what the Haisla Nation views to be a significant risk of an accident or malfunction. The Haisla Nation has grave concerns about the prospect of an oil pipeline running through the Kitimat River valley, an oil tanker terminal on the banks of Kitimat Arm, and tanker traffic in Kitimat Arm and Douglas Channel. The prospect of a spill from the pipeline, the terminal, or a tanker is a risk which is inconsistent with Haisla Nation stewardship concepts. The impacts of such a spill to Haisla Nation culture and land and resources could be devastating.
14. The evidence on which this overview is based consists of the following:
 - *Stewards of the Land ... Haisla Ownership and Use of their Traditional Territory, and their Concerns regarding the Northern Gateway Project and Proposed Tanker Traffic in the Douglas Channel and Kitimat Arm*, with supporting documentation, prepared by Jay Powell, 2011.
 - *Haisla! We Are Our History. Our Lands, Nuyem and Stories as told by our chiefs and elders*, edited by Louise Barbetti and Jay Powell, 2005.
 - *Historical and Documentary Corroboration Regarding the Haisla Nation's Occupation of its Traditional Territory*, with supporting documentation, prepared by Eric Wolfhard, 2011.
 - *An analysis of Archaeological Reports registered within British Columbia's Archaeology and Heritage databases for Haisla Traditional Territory*, with a supporting table, prepared by Blake Evans, 2011.
 - Affidavit of Ellis Ross, Chief Councillor of the Haisla Nation.
 - Affidavit of Michael Jacobs, Haisla Fisheries Manager.
 - Affidavits of Haisla Nation members.
 - Map of Haisla Nation Territory with placenames.