



Tankers Full of Trouble Coming to the North Coast?

Healthy Oceans. Healthy Communities.

For Immediate Release

October 19, 2007

SOINTULA, B.C. — Living Oceans Society will be touring North Coast communities this week to provide information about the potential risks of over 300 oil tankers a year travelling through the Inside Passage. The presentation will include a new interactive oil spill model developed by Living Oceans Society to assess the impacts of an oil tanker accident. Also featured will be Dr. Rick Steiner from the University of Alaska who will be providing first hand knowledge of the devastating, long-term consequences to communities, cultures and ecosystems from tanker spills.

“The presentations will give coastal communities a strong understanding of what’s at stake if we allow an oil tanker into B.C.’s coastal waters,” says Oonagh O’Connor, Energy Campaign Manager for Living Oceans Society. “If the moratorium is lifted it is only a matter of time before an oil spill occurs and they are next to impossible to clean up.”

Over the past few years several oil and gas companies have proposed pipeline mega projects through northern B.C. that would result in tankers travelling into the ports of Kitimat or Prince Rupert. If all the proposals were to proceed over 300 tankers per year would be navigating through coastal waters.

“In Alaska, we learned our lesson the hard way,” says Dr. Steiner. “Many promises were made by industry and government in the early 1970s that state of the art technology would ensure not a single drop of oil would be spilled, but as we saw with the *Exxon Valdez* spill, the promises were quickly broken.”

Over 19 years later there is still oil on the beaches of Prince William Sound and some the marine life has yet to recover.

The oil spill model allows people to see what spills of various sizes, at different times of years and in different locations would look like on B.C.’s north and central coast.

Dates and locations of speaker series:

Queen Charlotte City, October 22

Masset, October 23

Hartley Bay, October 24

Kitimaat Village, October 25

Prince Rupert, October 26

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Oonagh O’Connor, Energy Campaign Manager, Living Oceans Society
Ph: 250 230-6580 oonagh@livingoceans.org

Geoff Gilliard, Communications Manager, Living Oceans Society
Ph: 604 999-6273 ggilliard@livingoceans.org