



TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE INLET



Critical Incidents... Critical Relationships

Tsleil-Waututh Nation Perspective



March 27th, 2013
Land Based Spill Preparedness and Response

“The oil-refinery a short distance westward of Port Moody, on the south shore of the Inlet, allows to escape large quantities of oil and waste, which flow on to the water and float there as a slight but continuous film. At the time of my inspection there was a large amount of it a distance of a mile or a mile and a half along the shore in the neighbourhood of the refinery, and for three-quarters of a mile all life was killed off along the beach.”

Thompson, W.F. 1913.

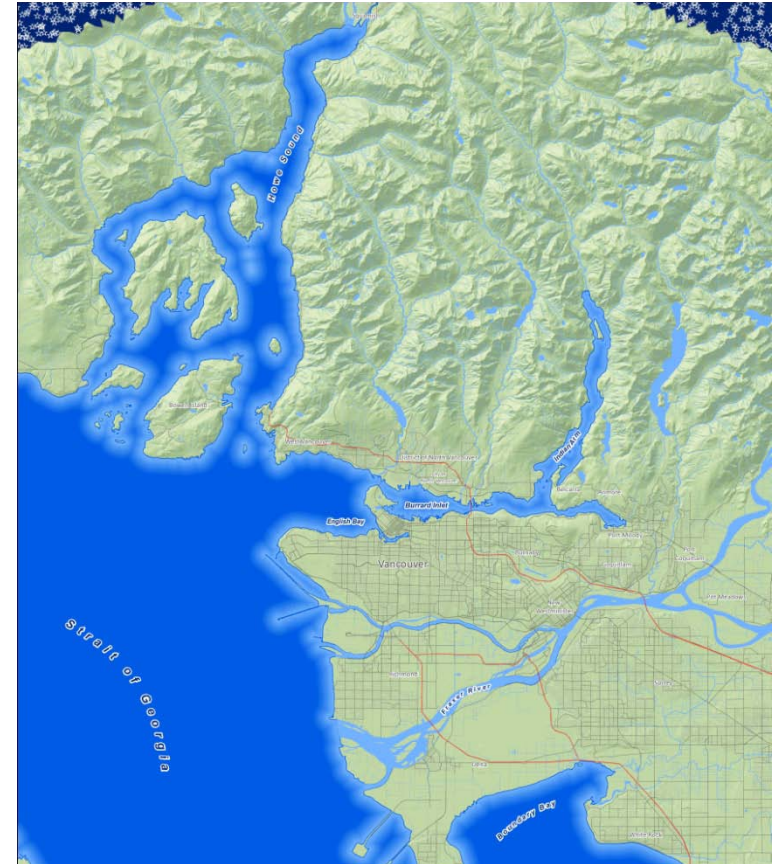


1913 Report on the Clam-Beds of British Columbia. Province of British Columbia, Report of the Commissioner of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 56. Ottawa.



Since Time Out Of Mind...

- The Tsleil-Waututh are the People of the Inlet.
- Tsleil-Waututh lived in and along the waters of the Coast Salish Sea since time out of mind.
- We have and we always will live here.
- We have been living with the negative impact of development since contact





We Are Connected...

- There is an interconnectedness between the health of our culture, and the health of the environment
- We are healthy when our rivers, streams, beaches and forests are healthy
- When we are healthy our communities are healthy





It is Our Obligation...

- We have been placed here by the Creator to care for our land and waters.
- It is our obligation and birth right to be the caretakers and protectors of these waters.
- It is our responsibility.





Health of the Inlet... A Snap Shot...

- Three million people in British Columbia live within the Georgia Basin.
- Most of the shoreline of the inlet is now industrial.





Serious Challenges...

- Many challenges facing the lands and waters of our Territory:
 - Declining Fish Stocks,
 - Warming Waters,
 - Contaminated Shell Fish,
 - Urban Sprawl,
 - Impacts from industrial accidents.
- But....
 - How do we move forward...?
 - How do we Act...?





Tsleil-Waututh Vision

- Not to be paralyzed by bitterness or anger.
- To put the Tsleil-Waututh face on the Tsleil-Waututh Territory.
- To see the environment of the territory restored.
- To care for the land and the water.
- To find creative means and tools to move forward into the future.

Taken from the Tsleil-Waututh Declaration



“Our vision seeks to find a balance between values over time.... It is holistic in nature.....”



Our Sacred Trust ...

- Tsleil-Waututh leaders have the responsibility to speak for the land and waters of our territory.
- It is our sacred trust.
- It is important that our territory begins to be restored to its prior state.
- It is through the fulfillment of our responsibilities that we ensure that future generations of Tsleil-Waututh thrive.





Learning from our Experiences

The 2007 Kinder Morgan Oil Spill

In **2007**, our community witnessed firsthand the environmental impacts of a **Kinder Morgan oil spill** in Burrard Inlet, when 1,500 barrels of oil spilled into Burrard Inlet and adjacent areas.

Tsleil-Waututh witnessed the challenges associated with applying Emergency Preparedness planning and Environmental Management Systems.





Initial Dialogue

- It was critical that Tsleil-Waututh Nation be involved as early as possible in the clean-up decision making processes.
- It was emphasized to agencies that involvement of the Nation will build confidence in clean-up efforts.
- It was noted that the Nation holds crucial information and knowledge of the affected areas impacted by the spill.
- This knowledge could aid the design and implementation of clean-up efforts.





Tsleil-Waututh Engagement

- The Nation mobilized all available resources to assist with this emergency.
- Worked collaboratively with Squamish Nation.
- Worked with Kinder Morgan, Federal, Provincial and Municipal Agencies.
- The Nation was a member of the incident command and was entrenched in the decision making process.
- The National Energy Board was the lead agency.





Following the Oil Spill

To build from the experience of the Kinder Morgan Spill.

In the Fall of 2007, with support from the Province of BC, Tsleil-Waututh began developing a Geographic Response Plan for Burrard Inlet and the lower Fraser River.





Geographic Response Planning (GRP)

A Geographic Response Planning (GRP) develops site-specific response plans for oil and chemical spills on or adjacent to water.

It includes response strategies tailored to a specific beach, shore, or waterway and are meant to minimize impacts on sensitive biophysical and cultural areas threatened by an incident spill.





Geographic Response Planning (GRP)

Traditionally, these types of plans focus on the specific waterways and direct foreshore areas.

However, as identified in the July 2007 Burnaby oil spill, Tsleil-Waututh recognized that the adjacent terrestrial drainage and hydroriparian systems are critical areas to be considered.





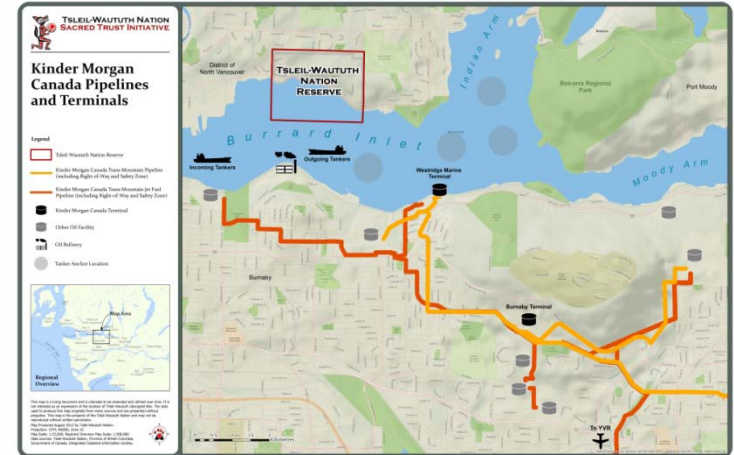
Geographic Response Planning (GRP)

The Burrard Inlet Bioregional Response Plan (BIBRP) contained three distinct phases:

Phase 1: Map and describe key features, sensitive biophysical, cultural and economic values

Phase 2: Identify strategies for minimizing damage to those values.

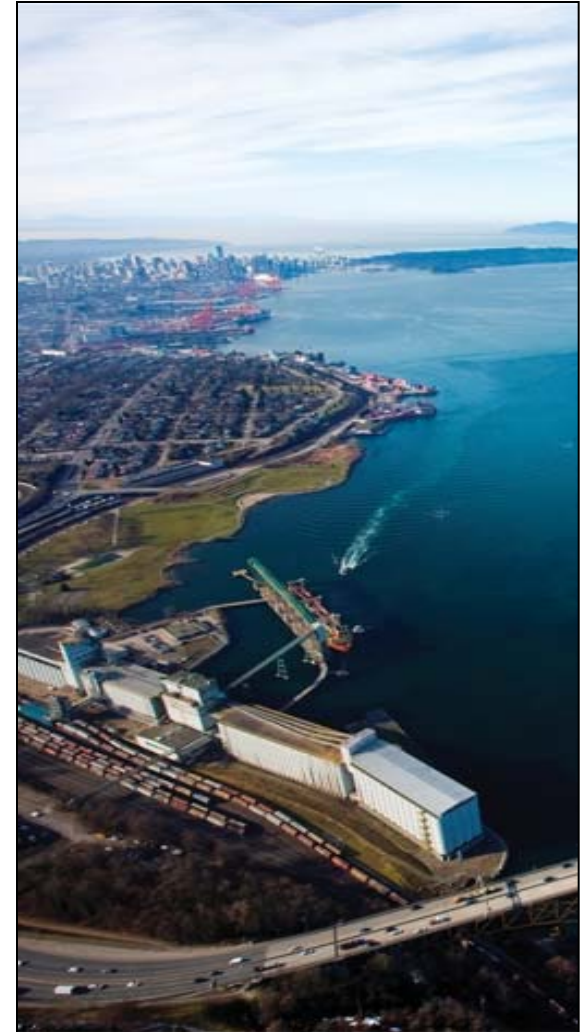
Phase 3: Set priorities for various spill scenarios.





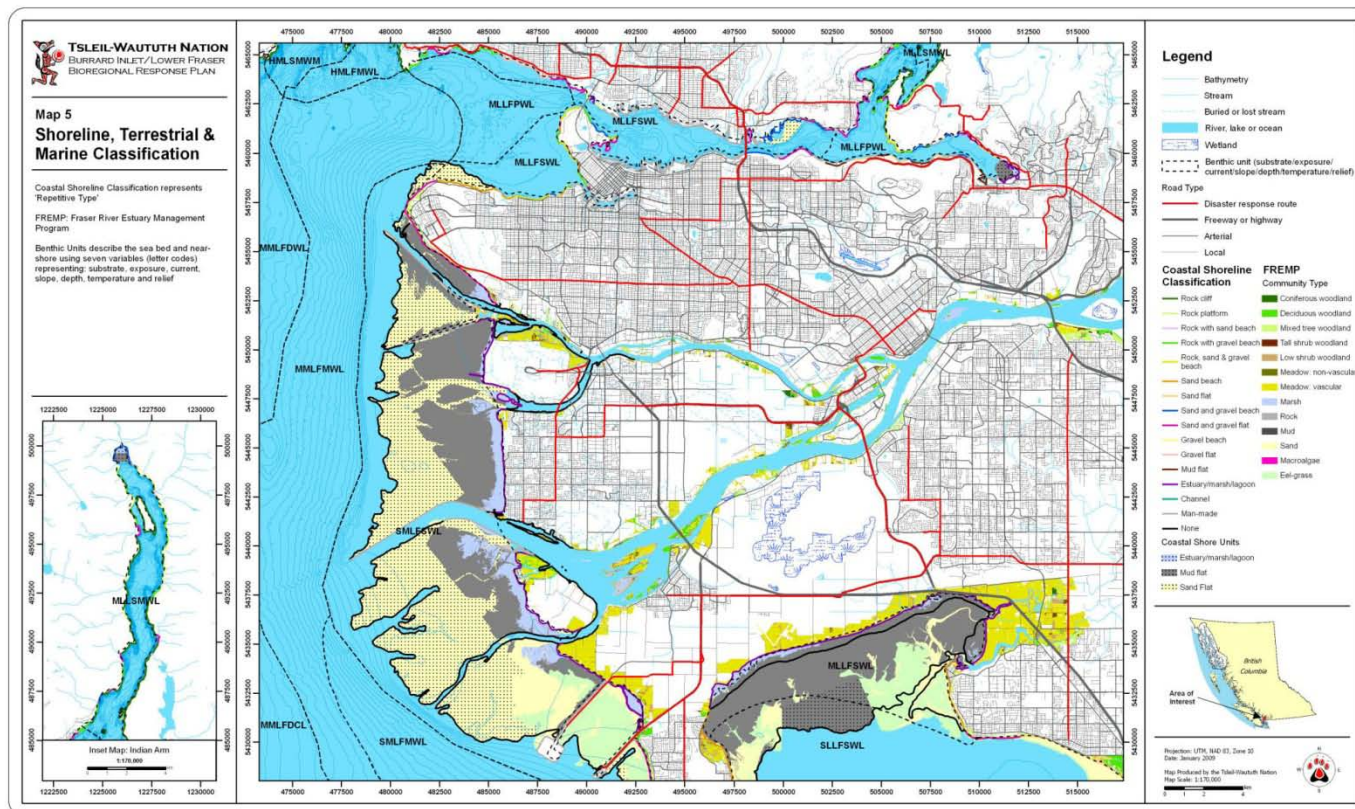
Geographic Response Planning (GRP)

- The Burrard Inlet Bioregional Response Plan is a critical plan:
 - Assist with the establishment of first responder priorities following a spill event.
 - Supports the identification spill responders, roles and responsibilities, available spill response equipment, training and exercise requirements.
- **Tsleil-Waututh created draft map products that could serve as the foundation for a more developed response plan.**



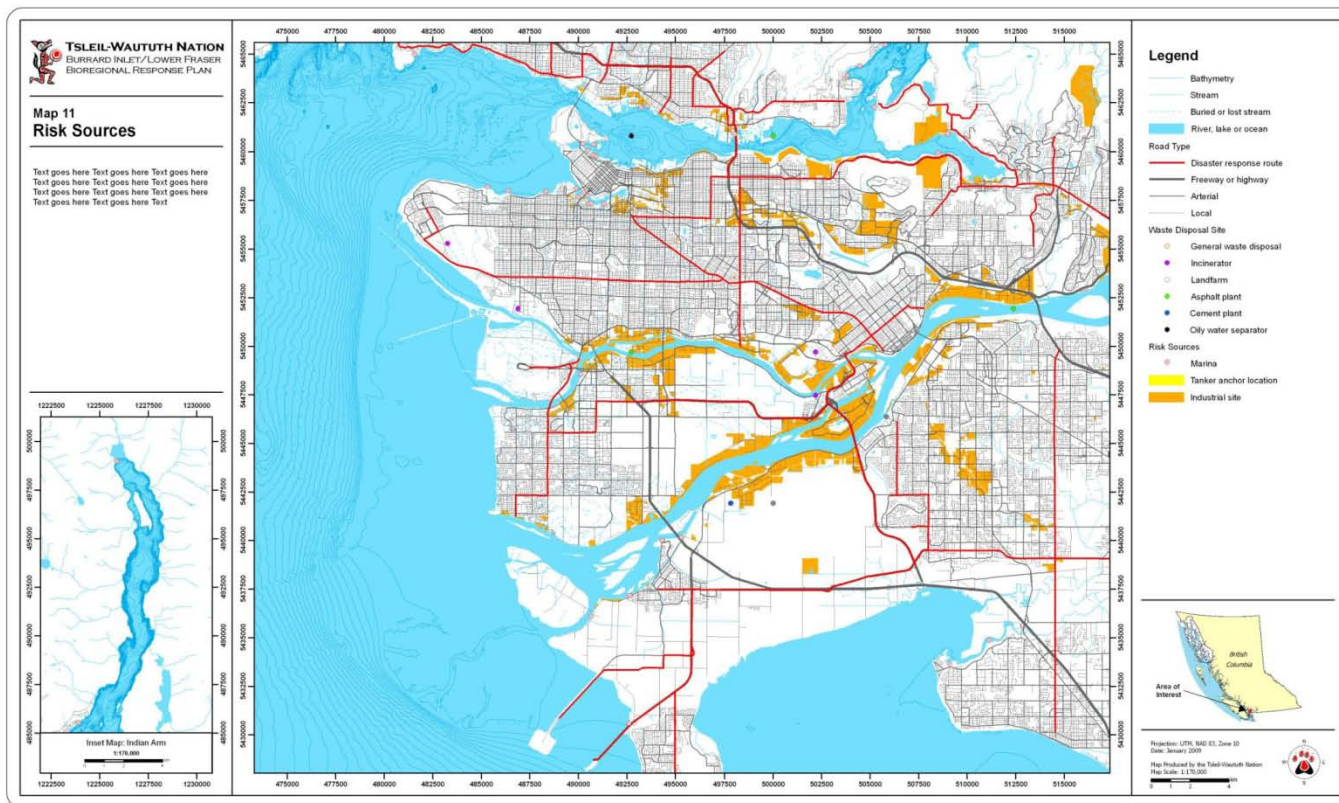


MAP EXAMPLE: Shoreline, Terrestrial & Marine Classification





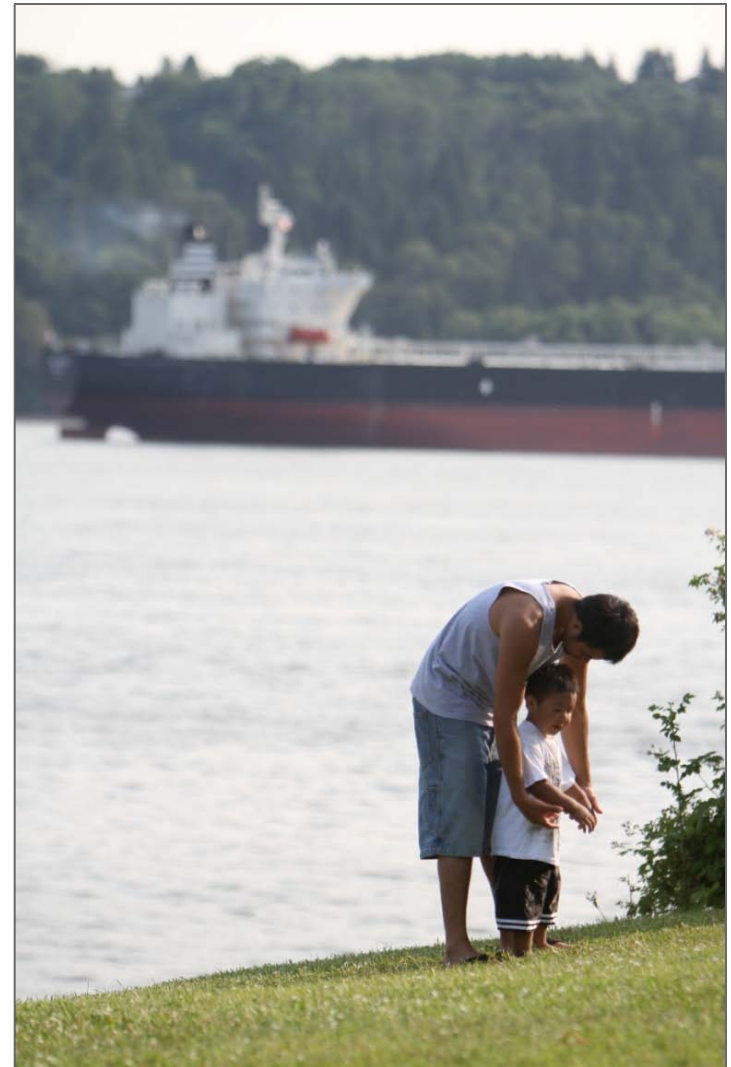
MAP EXAMPLE: Risk Sources





Aboriginal Rights and Title

- The core of the territory over which the Nation holds aboriginal title is in the middle of what is now a highly urbanized area.
- Finding ways to assert constitutionally protected aboriginal rights over the area requires a multifaceted approach...
- one that requires the development of relationships...
- but also one that prescribes Tsleil-Waututh inclusion in all decision-making processes involving our traditional territory.





Formation of Partnerships

- The Tsleil-Waututh know the strength in working in partnerships with other governments, agencies and organizations...
- Relationships provide a critical role in bridging gaps in capacity...
- And ensuring that when an incident occurs we are prepared...





Tsleil-Waututh is calling for...

- We are calling on leaders from all levels of government to work collaboratively with Tsleil-Waututh and other First Nations to ensure that our communities are **prepared** to deal with incidents when and where they occur.
- As a society we are facing unprecedented development and expansion of energy transportation infrastructure.





Tsleil-Waututh is calling for...

- We are calling on leaders from all levels of government to work collaboratively with Tsleil-Waututh and other First Nations to ensure that our communities are **adequately resourced** (equipment and financially) to deal with incidents when and where they occur.
- To build on and improve existing processes that are currently established.
- This is **not just an aboriginal rights issue**. This is an issue that we face together as a community.





Benefits....

- By coming together we can leverage the collective capacity which exists in our communities.
- By coming together we can ensure that our collective interests are protected.
- By coming together we can ensure continuity in our efforts over time.





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Hay ce:p q'a...
Thanking all of you.

