



# **Gitxaała Valued Components: An Approach to Cumulative Effects Management**

# **Gitxaala Valued Components: An Approach to Cumulative Effects Management**



- Introduction to Gitxaala Nation
- How Potential Projects Can Impact the Nation
- Our Understanding of Cumulative Effects
- Shortfalls of CE, as they relate to First Nations
- Gitxaala Valued Components

# Introduction to Gitxaala Nation



## Gitxaala Environmental Monitoring (GEM)

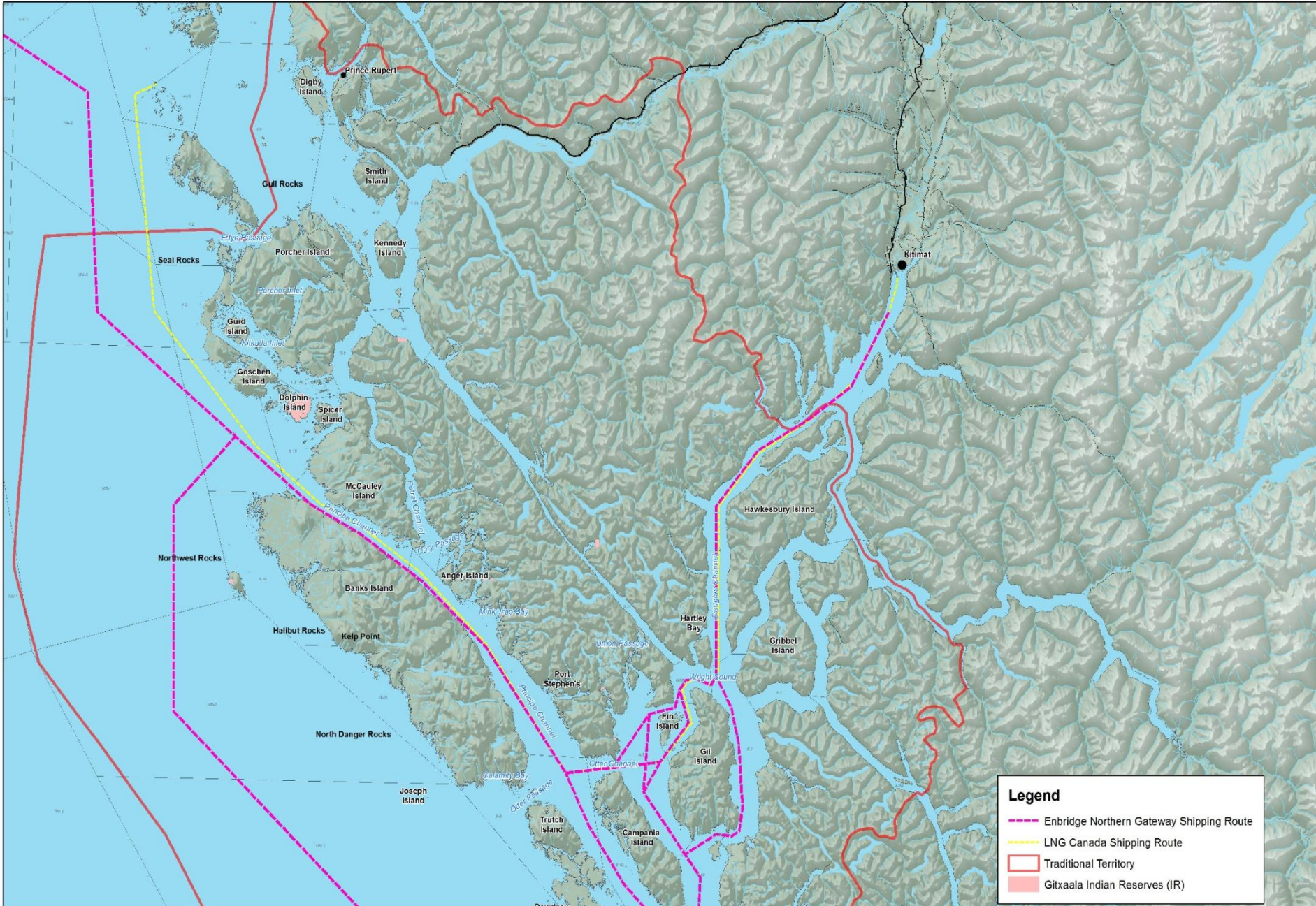
- GEM is an agency of Gitxaala First Nation.
- One of our key roles is to represent Gitxaala Nation in environmental assessment processes to ensure that those people, businesses, and agencies who wish to conduct their business in Gitxaala Territory do so in a respectful manner that does not undermine nor take away from the capacity of Gitxaala Nation to enjoy their territory nor infringe upon their rights, title and enjoyment of their own territory.
- Additionally, we provide sound, effective, and useful science and research for Gitxaala Nation.

# **Introduction to Gitxaala Nation**



## **Gitxaala Nation**

- Located on the North West Coast in the village of Lach Klan on Dolphin Island
- Dolphin Island is Approximately 54 kms south west of Prince Rupert
- Lach Klan is considered to be one of the oldest continuously occupied villages in BC (approx 10,000 years)
- Access limited to float planes and boats (personal watercraft, fishing vessels and passenger water taxi)
- Approximately 1910 members registered to the Nation with 419 living on reserve



**Legend**

- Enbridge Northern Gateway Shipping Route
- LNG Canada Shipping Route
- Traditional Territory
- Gitxaala Indian Reserves (IR)

# Introduction to Gitxaala Nation



## Gitxaala Nation

- Gitxaala Nation is traditionally grouped with the Tsimshian Nation which was historically separated into Inland, Coastal and Southern Tsimshian.
- Historic documents refer to Gitxaala as part of the Southern Tsimshian, but Gitxaala refer to themselves as a Nation apart from that group.
- Gitxaala Nation has never entered in the treaty process but asserts Aboriginal rights and title over its vast territory.

# Introduction to Gitxaala Nation



## Current Development

- Tel Mine (Banks Island Gold)
- Commercial Fishing
- Recreational Fishing
- Guided hunting and fishing
- Various Logging Operations
- Port Of Prince Rupert Operations and Expansion (Grain, Coal, Containers, Raw Lumber, Wood Pellets)

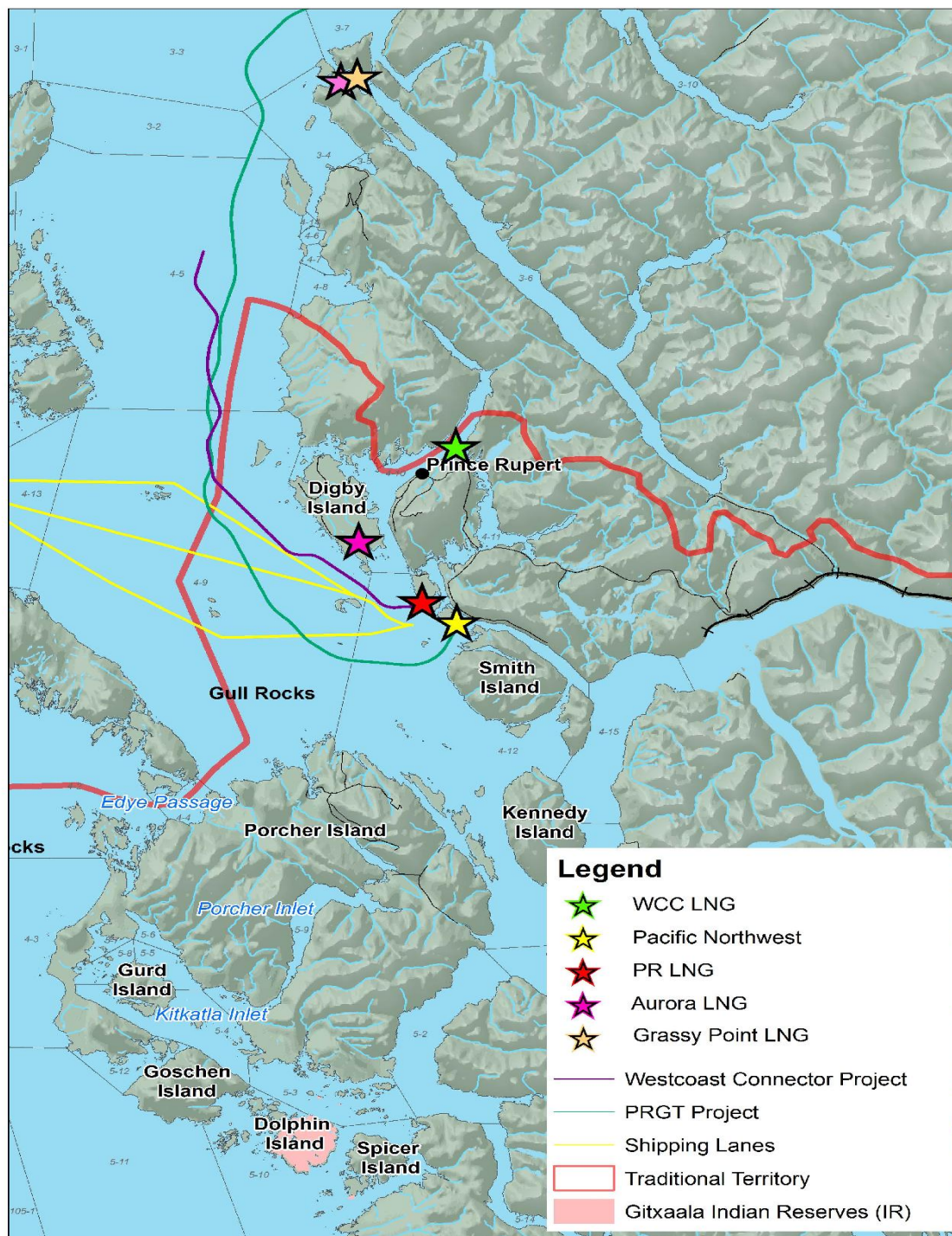
## Proposed Development

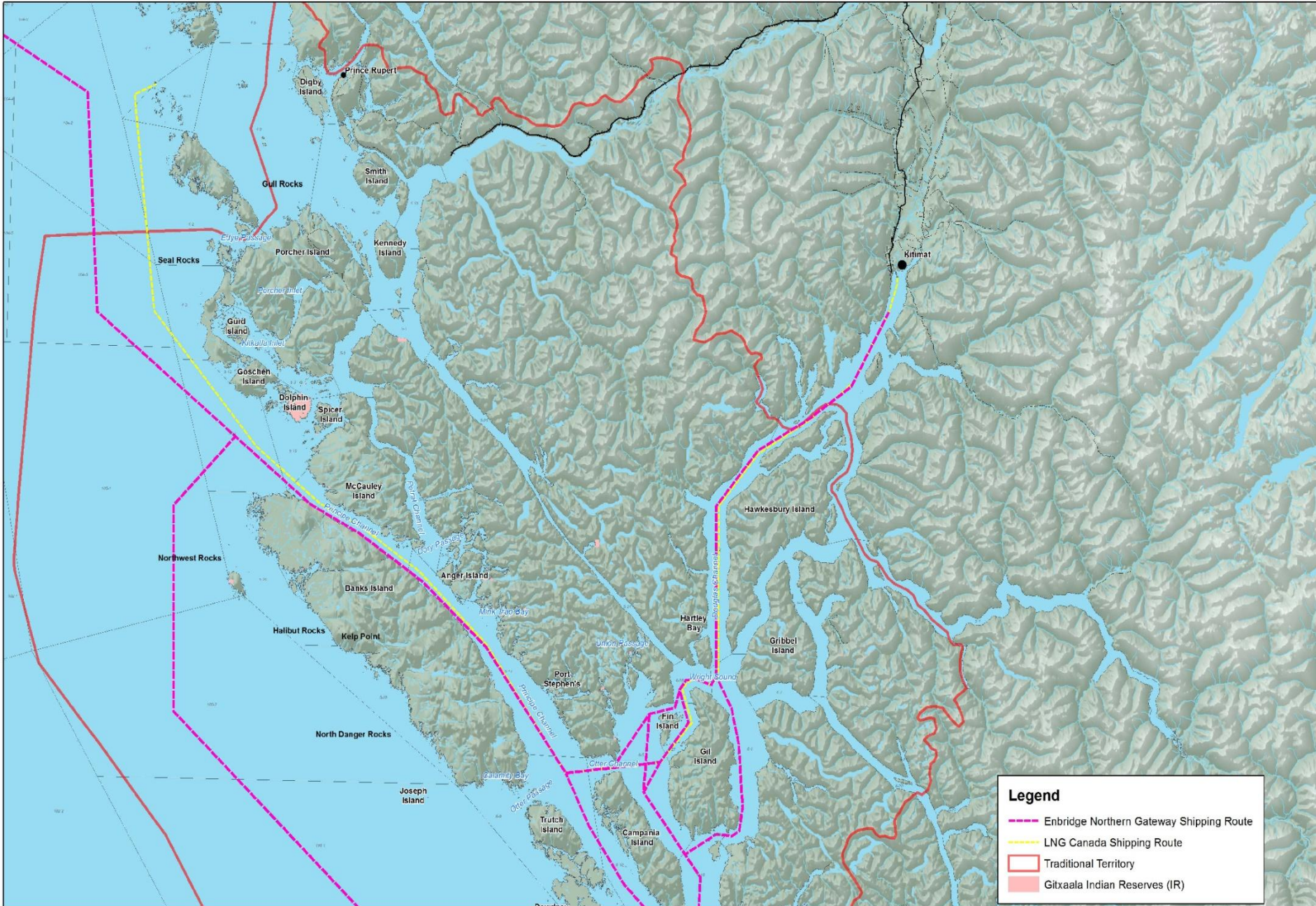
- Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project
- 7 LNG terminal facilities
- 4 LNG pipelines
- Yellow Giant Gold Property Development
- Port of Prince Rupert expansion

GITXAALA



ENVIRONMENTAL  
MONITORING





**Legend**

- Enbridge Northern Gateway Shipping Route
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# Introduction to Gitxaala Nation



## How This Development Impacts Gitxaala

### Terrestrial Development

- hunting and food gathering,
- resource collection such as cedar bark strips and monumental cedar for poles and canoes
- Camps

Eg. Logging, LNG terminals



# Introduction to Gitxaala Nation



## How This Development Impacts Gitxaala

### Marine Development

- fishing (salmon, halibut, herring, crab)
- hunting (seals and sea lions)
- Transportation

Eg. LNG pipelines, LNG terminals



# Introduction to Gitxaala Nation



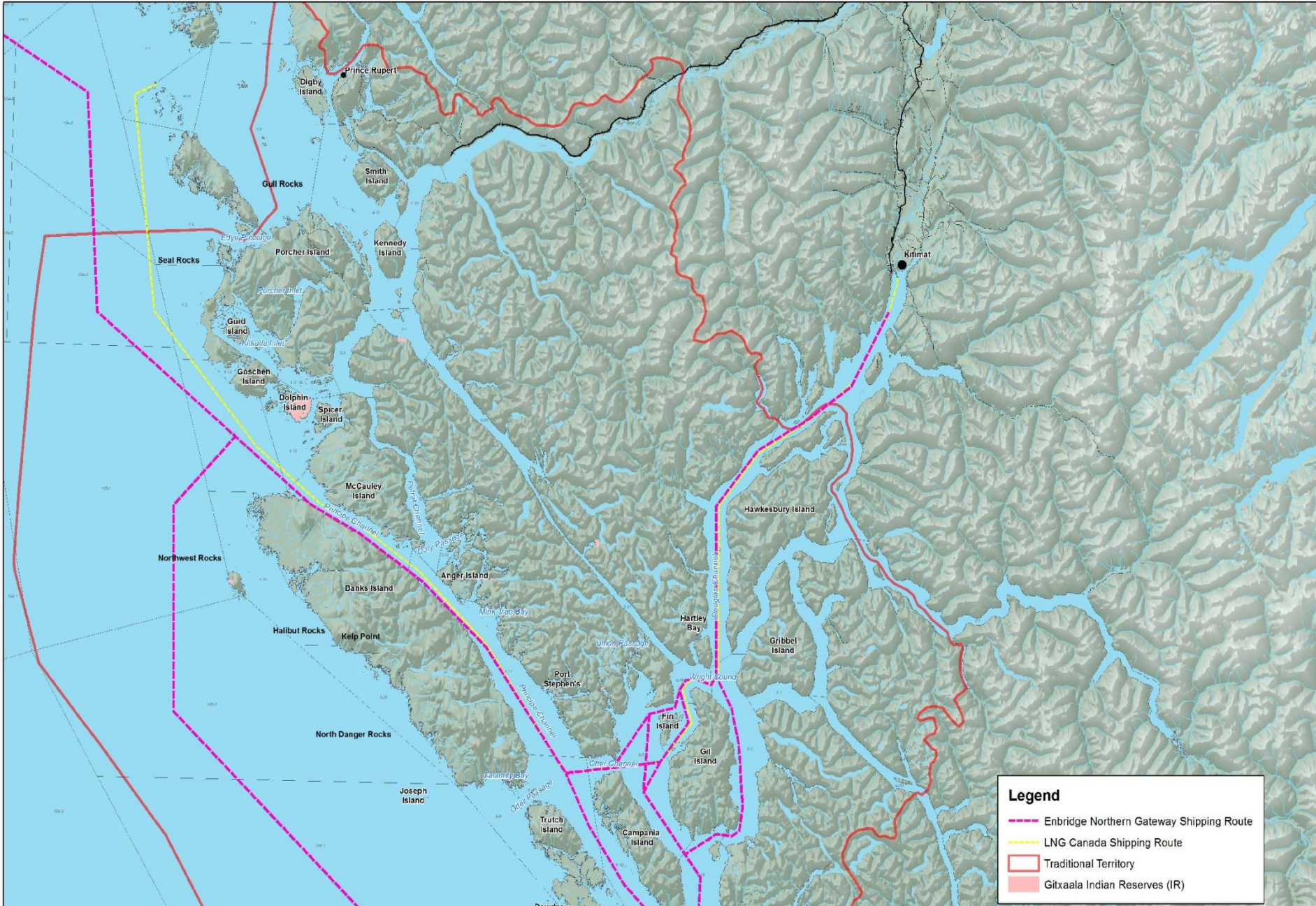
## How This Development Impacts Gitxaala

### Marine Shipping

- fishing (salmon, halibut, herring, crab)
- transportation
- shoreline harvesting
- Marine archeology erosion



Eg. LNG transportation, oil transportation



**Legend**

- Enbridge Northern Gateway Shipping Route
- LNG Canada Shipping Route
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# Understanding Cumulative Effects



## Our Understanding of Cumulative Effects

Provincial definition- Changes to environmental, social, or economic values caused by the combined effect of present, past, and reasonably foreseeable future actions or events.

### Issues:

What are the past conditions?

What is “reasonably foreseeable”

# Understanding Cumulative Effects



## CE Assessment Approaches:

### Project Based

- Reactive
- Non-inclusive
- Short term
- Bound by legislated time frames
- Does not fully understand the intricacies of First Nations values
- Subjective- relies on an assessment performed by the proponent/responsible authority

### **Biggest Issues:**

1. Cumulative Effects Assessments:
2. Scoping
3. Analysis of effects
4. Identifying mitigation measures
5. Evaluating significance

### **Significant Effects from all projects: 1**

**Government doesn't require significance determination on First Nations Values**

# Understanding Cumulative Effects



## CE Assessment Approaches:

### Regional

- Proactive
- Inclusive
- Long term
- Not as critically bound by time
- Not regulated/legislated
- Requires buy-in from multiple stakeholders
- Does not fully understand the intricacies of First Nations values
- Requires the collection of critical baseline information
- Requires time, staff resources and finances to complete
- Subjective determination

**Who has that time and more importantly, who's PAYING?**

# **Regional Cumulative Effects Initiatives**



## **WHAT IS the Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP)?**

- MaPP is a co-led process created by a “Letter of Intent” (November 2011) to prepare sub-regional marine plans, and a regional priorities plan
- Signatories are Nanwakolas Council, North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative, Province of BC
- Plans intended to guide responsible marine economic activities, support traditional and cultural uses, and protect marine ecosystems
- Marine plans developed for Haida Gwaii, Central Coast, North Coast and North Vancouver Island using an ecosystem-based management approach

# Regional Cumulative Effects Initiatives



## What is the Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP)?

- **OBJECTIVE 1.** Inventory and evaluate existing data sets to identify gaps and required studies.
- **OBJECTIVE 2. *Conduct thorough baseline studies*** to complement existing data and facilitate the identification and monitoring of cumulative effects.
- **OBJECTIVE 3.** Collaboratively ***identify potential impacts and thresholds.***
- **OBJECTIVE 4.** Collaboratively develop cumulative effects prevention and mitigation strategies.
- **OBJECTIVE 5.** Collaboratively ***monitor*** for cumulative effects in order to trigger management actions for prevention and mitigation.

# **Regional Cumulative Effects Initiatives**



## **What is the Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP)?**

Shortfalls of the MaPP process:

- Determining Spatial and Temporal Boundaries
- Getting stakeholder buy-in (regional, First Nation, government)
- Process moves as fast as a cold turtle
- Has no defined legal/legislated implications
- Requires the collection of baseline information (time driven process)
- Defining appropriate values

# Understanding Cumulative Effects



## Defining Values (Valued Components)

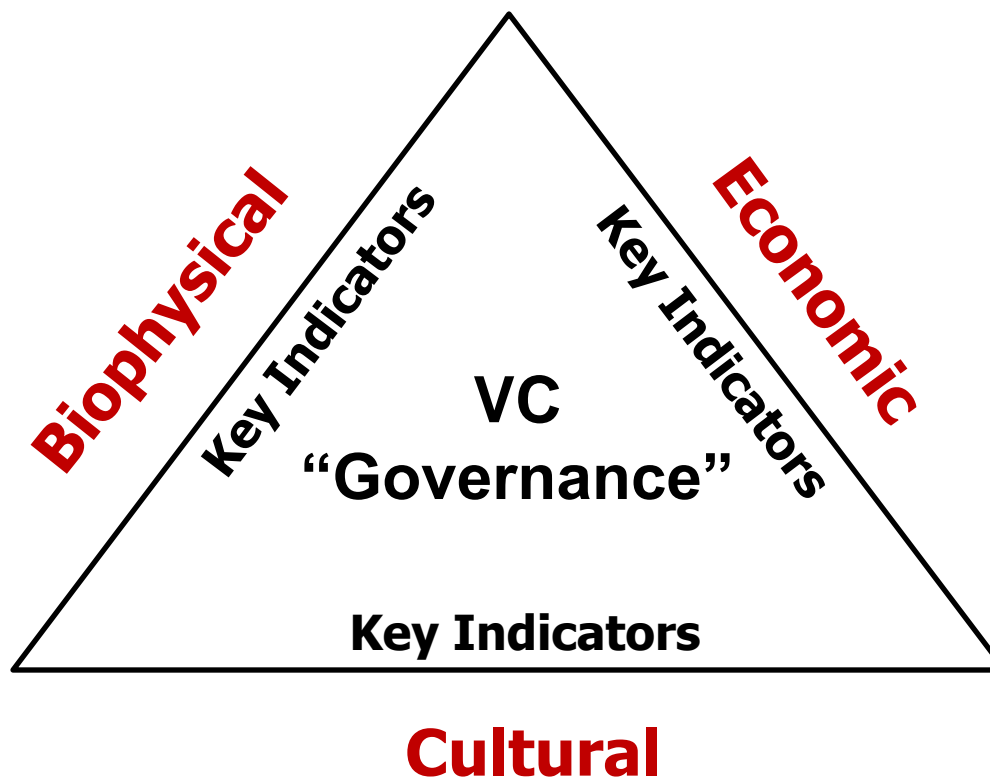
- **What is truly important to the Nation?**
- **How are those important values translated in a way that can be understood?**
- **How can we apply them to Cumulative Effects Assessment?**

# Gitxaala Valued Components: Data collection



- Workshops with selected participants to identify:
  - Areas of high concern
  - Potential Valued Components
  - Project Interactions
  - Available Information

# Gitxaala Valued Components: Identification



# Gitxaala Valued Components: Identification



## Governance

- Estimated number of names
- Ability to access territory
- Number of transits through house territories without hereditary permission
- Reduction in rank/status of house
- Change in type/quality/quantity of traditional foods at feasts
- Components required for feasting

## Cultural Identity

- Ability to access territory
- Experiential pollution – air, noise, visual intrusion
- Change in participation in cultural activities
- What is Gitxaala identity – compared to others
- Participation in trade

## Harvesting

- Loss/avoidance of preferred locations
- Economic loss – gear loss/interruption costs
- Habitat loss
- Gitxaala travel routes, harvest locations vs. LNG travel routes, etc.
- Change in species harvested/shared
- Percentage of diet from harvested/traditional foods

## Sacred Places

- Traffic through/past sacred places
- Experiential pollution – air, noise, visual intrusion
- Traffic volumes/types and size of vessel
- Change in meaning of sacred places



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# Gitxaala Valued Components: Results



Welcome Harbour Tide Table: Abalone Harvesting Days

January	April	July	October
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
February	May	August	November
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Low Tide Days (less than 4ft)  
Zero Tide Days (less than 1ft)  
Preferred Months for Harvest

Welcome Harbour Tide Table: Roe on Kelp Harvesting Days

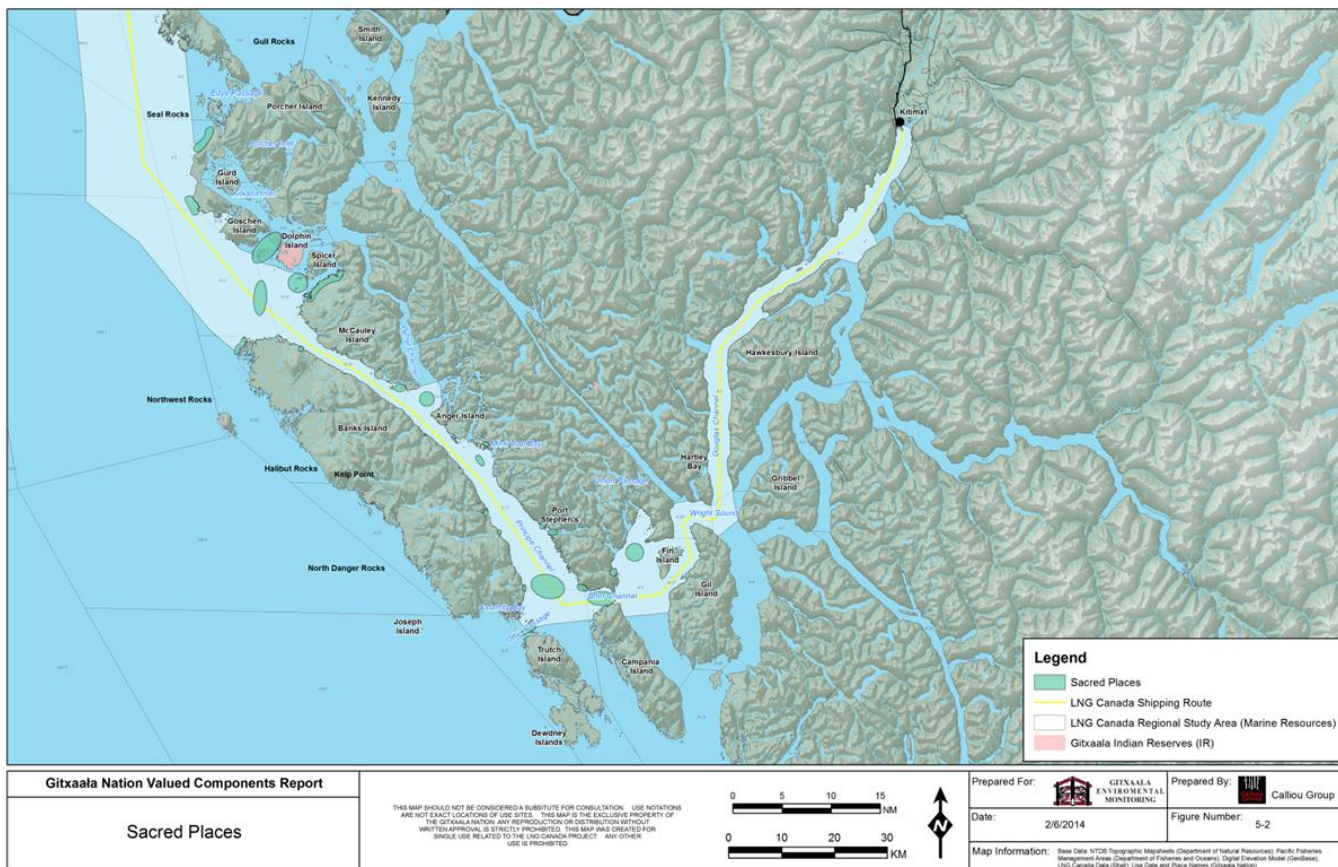
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Low Tide Days (less than 4ft)  
Zero Tide Days (less than 1ft)  
Potential Sub-Optimal Harvest Days



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# Gitxaala Valued Components: Results



# Understanding Cumulative Effects



**So, what does this all mean?**

- **Regardless of the process, First Nations must understand their own unique values/values of neighboring Nations**
- **Despite the shortfalls of both CE assessment processes, they both have upsides**
- **We must strive for processes that are engaging but more importantly, have meaningful consequences**
- **We must understand our leverage points**
- **Whatever we do, we must engage in it now, or we risk moving further away from our pre-historic baseline**

# Understanding Cumulative Effects



**Questions?**

