



We survive on Skeena salmon

First Nations continue their dependence on Skeena salmon. Throughout the north, recreational, commercial, and traditional fisheries are a big part of who we are. People from Burns Lake to the coast rely on Skeena salmon for their food, economy, and culture.

Salmon are a renewable resource that support our economies and feed our families. If properly protected and managed, Skeena salmon will continue to contribute over \$100 million per year to northern communities in perpetuity.

Local organizations in communities across the Skeena watershed are working to understand the impacts of LNG in the Skeena Estuary. For more information or to get involved, contact your local organization:

Prince Rupert | Prince Rupert Environmental Society | www.SaveourSkeenaSalmon.org

Terrace | SkeenaWild Conservation Trust | www.skeenawild.org

Hazelton | Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition | www.skeenawatershed.com

Smithers | Friends of Morice Bulkley | friendsofmoricebulkley.ca

Friends of Wild Salmon

friendsofwildsalmon.ca

Sign the declaration to protect the Skeena salmon at SaveLelu.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:

www.BCLNGInfo.com



What you need to know

about **Petronas** (Pacific NorthWest LNG) and its impacts on Skeena Salmon



LNG development in the estuary may threaten Skeena salmon

All five species of salmon use the estuary as they transition from the freshwater of the Skeena River into a saltwater of the Pacific Ocean. Previous studies and recent science have found that the mouth of the river is extremely important habitat for all Skeena salmon.

Who is Petronas?

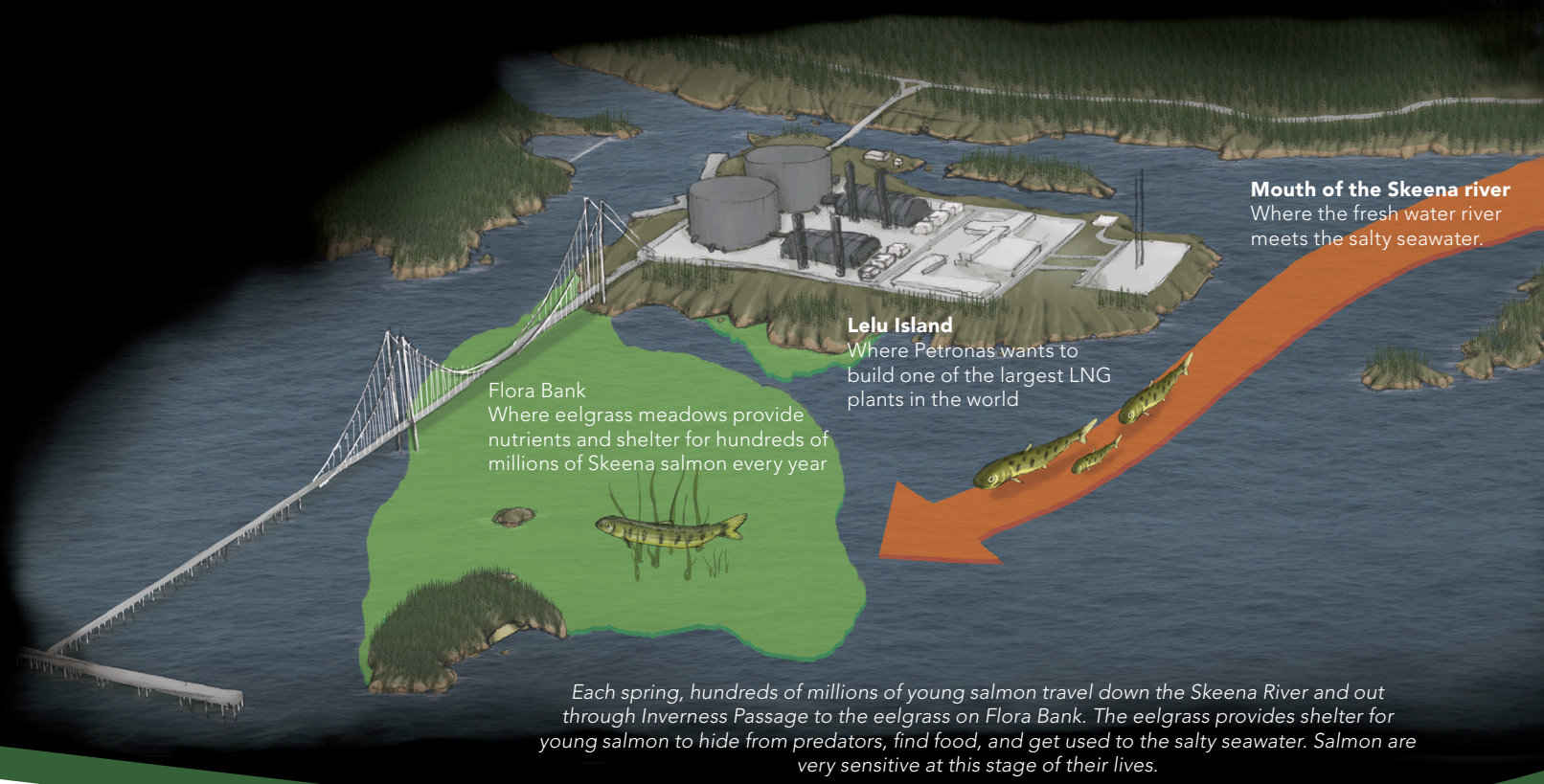
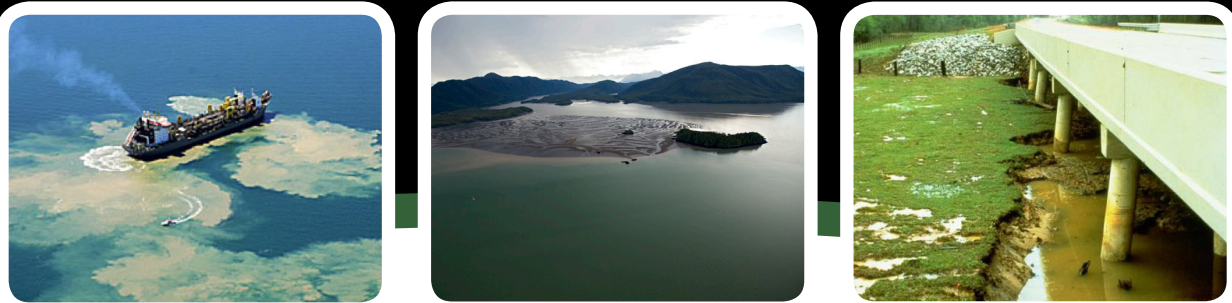
Petronas is an energy company owned by the state of Malaysia.

What is an estuary?

An **estuary** is where the mouth of a fresh water river meets the salty seawater.

Petronas' new plan

Community members and experts told Petronas that a massive dredge in the Skeena Estuary is unacceptable, so the company put forward a new plan – a roadway from Lelu Island, over the Skeena Estuary, to a berth (also supported by concrete pillars) in Chatham Sound.



If it goes ahead according to the new plan, Pacific NorthWest LNG will...

Cause serious disruption during construction.

Building a one-kilometre suspension bridge across Flora Bank and a one-kilometre roadway out to deep water in Chatham Sound will require major construction. PNW will need concrete foundations, and drill hundreds of pylons and support beams deep into the seafloor. A lot of this construction would be taking place along the edge of Flora Bank.

Stir up toxic chemicals in the estuary.

The pulp mill in Prince Rupert left a toxic sludge in this area, but over the years these toxins were buried. Stirring up all of these chemicals will increase levels of contamination in the food chain and foods we harvest, like fish, seaweed, crabs, clams, steelhead, and salmon. Petronas' new plan will still require a dredge. Although smaller than first proposed, PNW will stir up ("dredge") the contaminated seafloor, spreading the toxins in and around the estuary.

Disrupt eelgrass in Flora Bank.

Eelgrass is extremely light sensitive, and the huge roadway – the width of a four-lane highway – will shade eelgrass in the estuary. The eelgrass on Flora Bank is essential for the health and abundance of Skeena salmon. If the eelgrass is harmed, there will be no safe haven for baby salmon traveling down the river. The impacts to salmon will last longer than the project – these affects will be far-reaching and long-lasting.

Pylons and dock

The pylons and berthing dock in Petronas' new plan could have a devastating effect.

One of the biggest concerns with the new plan are the pylons – they could slow tidal currents and create muddy areas that disrupt eelgrass growth in the estuary. These big pillars could also interrupt the natural ebb and flow around Flora Bank. Scientists are worried that they could impact wave action, preventing sand from pushing back up onto the bank. Over time, Flora Bank would disappear, which would destroy important salmon habitat.

The eelgrass meadow is in perfect balance, and it offers salmon the exact habitat they need to adapt to the sea. Even a subtle change could impact this balance and affect the health and abundance of wild Skeena salmon.

Petronas' last plan with a huge dredge was not safe for Skeena salmon. The new plan with a kilometre-suspension bridge and a kilometre-roadway and hundreds of pylons is not safe for Skeena salmon.

Did you know?

Lelu Island was rejected as a site for industrial development 40 years ago because Flora Bank is such an important area for Skeena salmon. It must remain off limits to industry today.

"Inverness Passage, Flora Bank and De Horsey Bank...are habitat of critical importance for the rearing of juvenile salmon"

(Fisheries Service Canada [Department of Fisheries and Oceans], 1973)

