

# Reprint **Island Tides**

Visit [www.islandtides.com](http://www.islandtides.com) to read the current edition and more find more interesting articles on other BC, national & international topics in our extensive archive of newspapers and articles.

Reprint from Volume 22 Number 10

May 27, 2010

## Norm Hann completes tanker protest voyage

At the same time as Alexandra Morton was on the steps of the legislature, speaking to a crowd of more than 4,000 at the finish of her 'Salmon are Sacred' 'migration' walk from the north Island to Victoria, Norm Hann was standing up on his 11ft paddleboard, paddling south from Kitimat with one companion, and following the supertanker route from Kitimat to Bella Bella. He too arrived safely, on May 19.

Norm was also migrating with the salmon, but a much colder and lonelier migration than Alexandra's.

He was calling attention to a different type of menace to the ecology of the central coast: the threat of supertanker accidents and oil spills if VLCCs (Very Large Crude Carriers) carry tar sands oil from the proposed Enbridge terminal at Kitimat to the open sea, and on to foreign markets.

The proposed Enbridge dual pipeline, 1,170 kilometres from the tar sands to the coast, has been opposed by interior BC First Nations, fearing oil leaks as the pipeline snakes over several mountain ranges and across many rivers and creeks. It has also been opposed by all the First Nations of the coast, fearing the grounding of an *Exxon Valdez* size tanker, and the environmental damage from a major oil spill.

Art Sterritt, executive director of Coastal First Nations: 'If we had a tanker accident on the coast of British Columbia it would literally wipe [out] all of our cultures, all of our salmon, all of our groundfish. We cannot let that happen.'

A recent report by the Raincoast Conservation Foundation documented the effect of such an oil spill along some 900 kilometres of coast, which encompasses some 27,000 kilometres of shoreline. Navigational hazards facing a loaded tanker leaving Kitimat are described in 'Is shipping tar sands oil from Kitimat wise?', March 4, 2010 *Island Tides* (available in *Island Tides* online 'Energy' archive). The Enbridge plan would see 225 supertankers per year visiting Kitimat.

These are the waters traveled by Norm Hann since May

3. From Kitimat, 365 kilometres through the Great Bear Rainforest to Bella Bella. Norm knows the waters well; he is an experienced outdoor guide for salmon fishing, sea kayaking, wildlife and bear viewing in the Great Bear.

He has worked closely with the coastal First Nations community of Hartley Bay as a teacher, coach and guide and has been adopted into the Raven Clan of Hartley Bay for his work with their youth, a huge honour. He was given the name of T'aam



**NORM HANN ON HIS STAND-UP PADDLE BOARD**

Laan, Steerman of the Canoe.

Hartley Bay (just south of Prince Rupert) is the community closest to the wreck site of the BC ferry *Queen of the North*, which is still leaking oil today. Community members were the first on the scene when the ferry ran into Gil Island on March 22, 2006.

Hann and his companion, Brian Huntington, arrived in Bella Bella May 19. Their previous stop was at Klemtu, where they were treated to a huge feast which included sea cucumber, halibut, oolichans, herring eggs, and fried seaweed. Later, Matriarch Violet Neasloss, 96, narrated

© Island Tides Publishing Ltd. This article may be reproduced with this attribution, in its entirety, with notification to Island Tides Publishing Ltd.

This article was published (May 27, 2010) in 'Island Tides'. 'Island Tides' is an independent, regional newspaper distributing 17,500 print copies throughout the Gulf Islands and the Canadian Strait of Georgia from Victoria to Campbell River to Howe Sound.

Island Tides, Box 55, Pender Island, BC, Canada.  
Email: [islandtides@islandtides.com](mailto:islandtides@islandtides.com).

Phone: 250-629-3660. Fax: 250-629-3838.  
Website: <http://www.islandtides.com>

the Killer Whale story, set in the Moore Islands which Hann and Huntington had visited a few days earlier.

Read more and see the photo album:  
<http://mountainsurfadventures.blogspot.com>

### **Filmmaker's Visit**

Vancouver Island film-maker Richard Boyce (Island Bound Media) recently took a trip to Hartley Bay. He comments, 'I had the pleasure of meeting Norm Hann just before he began his 365km paddleboard journey from

Kitimate to Bella Bella.

Check out the 6-minute video I made which includes some very rare wolf images I was lucky enough to photograph:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjXDVuZ2uls>,  
or <http://blip.tv/file/3608572/>.

---

© Island Tides Publishing Ltd. This article may be reproduced with this attribution, in its entirety, with notification to Island Tides Publishing Ltd.

*This article was published (May 27, 2010) in 'Island Tides'. 'Island Tides' is an independent, regional newspaper distributing 17,500 print copies throughout the Gulf Islands and the Canadian Strait of Georgia from Victoria to Campbell River to Howe Sound.*

Island Tides, Box 55, Pender Island, BC, Canada. Phone: 250-629-3660. Fax: 250-629-3838.  
Email: [islandtides@islandtides.com](mailto:islandtides@islandtides.com). Website: <http://www.islandtides.com>

---