



*Resolution CO2026-19*

## Re: Porcupine River Chinook Fishery

### WHEREAS:

- A. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (“VGFN”) has the right to self-determination, including:
  - a. the inherent right to self-government;
  - b. the right to be secure in our enjoyment of our means of subsistence and development;
  - c. the right to maintain and strengthen our distinct physical, spiritual, cultural and economic relationship to the Traditional Territory, and to uphold our responsibilities to future generations in this regard;
  - d. the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of the Traditional Territory; and,
  - e. the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of VGFN’s inherent and treaty rights and responsibilities recognized and protected under the Final Agreement and Self-Government Agreement.
- B. VGFN’s inherent and treaty rights and responsibilities include:
  - a. An inherent self-government authority recognized under Article 13 of the Self-Government Agreement in relation to the protection of fish, including Porcupine River Chinook salmon; and,
  - b. Treaty rights to harvest salmon and co-manage the salmon fishery in the Porcupine River watershed basin recognized under Chapter 16 of the Final Agreement including an exclusive needs-based allocation for Porcupine River Chinook salmon with priority over all other fisheries.
- C. In 2025, 337 Chinook migrated past the Old Crow Sonar. The 2026 Chinook run is forecasted to be similar in size to 2025.
- D. For the 2021 and 2022 seasons, VGFN fishers were asked to voluntarily avoid taking Chinook.
- E. For the 2023, 2024, and 2025 seasons, VGFN Council implemented Chinook closures and gillnet restrictions through Council Resolutions 2023-35, 2024-48, and 2025-32.
- F. The 2024 VGFN General Assembly passed resolution GA2024-01 by consensus granting the authorization of VGFN Natural Resources & Heritage (NRH) Department to enforce fishing closures.



- G. VGFN Council has the duty and power under the Constitution to do such things as may be necessary to fulfill the fundamental objectives of the VGFN.
- H. VGFN must take all measures necessary for future generations of VGFN Citizens to:
  - a. protect and uphold VGFN's inherent and treaty rights and responsibilities in relation to Porcupine River Chinook salmon; and,
  - b. maintain and strengthen VGFN's distinct physical, spiritual, cultural and economic relationship to the Porcupine River Chinook salmon.
- I. Council has carefully considered the potential risks, costs, and benefits of establishing VGFN measures to regulate the 2026 VGFN Porcupine River Chinook salmon fishery, including past VGFN practices.

**THEREFORE**, the Council of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

1. No VGFN Citizen shall harvest Chinook salmon in the Porcupine River watershed in 2026.
2. Any Chinook salmon caught incidentally in the Porcupine River and its tributaries by a VGFN Citizen must be released immediately, or, if already dead and unable to be revived, reported as bycatch to the NR Department and distributed among the community.
3. For the duration of the Chinook run on the Porcupine, June 23 to August 17, 2026, all permitted gillnet fishing for freshwater fish use nets with 4-inch mesh or smaller. Nets should be set in areas away from the main channel where Chinook are known to migrate.
4. The following measures shall come into effect on July 6, 2026, at 12:01 am and remain in effect until August 8, 2026, at 11:59 PM.
5. The Porcupine River within the VGFN Traditional Territory is closed to all gillnet fishing. This measure does not apply to the Crow River and its tributaries.
6. These measures shall be reviewed weekly by NR staff as in-season information becomes available. The NR Department will bring forward any recommended changes to the measures, based on in-season information, for immediate consideration by Council.



**THIS RESOLUTION** being duly approved by a quorum of the Council at a meeting convened on *June 17, 2026*, in Old Crow, Yukon.

---

*Chief Pauline Frost*

---

*Deputy Chief Gladys Netro*

---

*Councillor Cindy Dickson*