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9/4/2010

Its a weekend away one Vancouver man won't soon forget.

Brenden Leeson was "reeling" when he caught a 72-pound Chinook Salmon Saturday morning during a fishing trip to the Sonora Resort off the Discovery Islands.

Leeson says he has been fishing in the area for years but never expected anything like this.

"When I came here my goal was to catch a fish as big as my kid" he says, "I've got two kids, one of them is 14 months old and weighs 21 pounds, so that was what i was talking about. But this fish at 72, just beat my 10-year-old daughter who's 70 pounds."

Leeson says the catch is great for anglers and the industry as Chinook numbers have been trending down in recent years.

"The fishing is always great here, but the size and the frequency of the Chinook particularly has been going down. We hit three within an hour and to have this behemoth give itself up was just bloody fantastic."

Leeson plans to mount the fish, which many in the area suspect may be one for the record books.

Leeson's story is just one of many that come in a year of higher than expected returns of salmon along the B.C coast.

On Friday the Pacific Salmon Commission released figures that estimate the number of sockeye taken in this years banner Fraser River run at 9.6-million.

They predict the total number of returning sockeye this season will be in the order of 34-million fish.

