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The story of the big one that did NOT get away

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Tommy Thompson guided Brenden Leeson to the catch of a lifetime – a 72-pound chinook salmon.

Thompson, a Comox resident who works as a guide at Sonora Resort in the Discovery Islands, had taken Leeson out Saturday morning in the Stuart Island area. They had hooked a 15- and 21-pound chinook salmon when around 9:30 a.m. one of the lines had a hit. Leeson, a Vancouver resident, battled the fish for an intense 40 minutes before Thompson bonked it and brought the behemoth on board.

Thompson said the talk around the dock was that it was the biggest fish taken in the area in 40 to 50 years. Thompson said the chinook was landed on a Farr Better Flasher with an anchovie-stuffed Speedo hoochie in about 140 feet of water just off Glory Point.

Thompson said the catch made news at radio and television stations throughout British Columbia. Leeson won't be buying huge frying pans – he plans to have the fish mounted.



Sonora Resort Guide Tommy Thompson gives the 72-pound chinook Brenden Leeson caught a big hug. Photo by Sonora Resort