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Huge Tye caught near Sonora Island

By [Paul Rudan - Campbell River Mirror](#)

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This year's historic run of more than 34 million sockeye salmon was getting all the media attention...until Saturday.

That's when Brenden Leeson landed the catch of his life, a 72-pound chinook salmon, caught near Sonora Island.

The Vancouver man was staying at swanky Sonora Island Lodge when he hooked into the huge Tye – a chinook salmon weighing more than 30 pounds.

He was guided by Tommy Thompson, a former member of the Canadian ski jumping team, who's been guiding anglers at Sonora for the last 30 years or so.

It was one of the largest fish ever caught in the area by a recreational angler and harks back to the early days of sports fishing in Campbell River, better known as the "Salmon Capital of the World."

"We have seen excellent fishing at Sonora this season," said Wynne Powell, president of Sonora Resort. "This has been a celebratory day for all of us – our international guests and our long-time fishing guides and resort staff.

"This type of historic event is fantastic for Sonora and for tourism for all of British Columbia."

According to Powell, guests from Switzerland, Germany, United Kingdom, The Netherlands and the U.S. were on the dock to see the huge salmon and to take photos.

It's also been a good season for members of the Tye Club who fish from rowboats in and around the mouth of the Campbell River.

Tyees #48, #49 and #50 were caught on Monday.

A 49-pounder was landed on Sunday morning by Lyle Unwin, guided by Jim Cloves.

Cloves was also rowing on Aug. 14, for Mike Netzel who caught the biggest Tye of the season, a 54-pound chinook.



It was thumbs up and smiles from Brenden Leeson (left) of Vancouver who caught a massive 72-pound chinook on Saturday, guided by Tommy Thompson of Sonora Island Lodge who holds the whopper.

Photo courtesy Sonora Island Lodge

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