

## **Tyson's first fish**

This story about my son is a glimpse of a day in his life. He has grown up alongside me fishing. This story relates his first time fishing with a rod and describes how exciting it was for him. Tyson is Cowichan and he's now learning the Cowichan fishing ways.

kwsus 'uw' hwun'a' 'i' nem' hi'wul'te'num'

*The first time fishing with a rod*

By Evangeline Guerin and Ruby Peter | Sti'tum'at

(1) hay kws 'uw' tsetsul'ulhtun's tthunu ts'lhhwulmuhw 'i kw'umutham'sh.  
*I was raised in a fishing family.*

(2) 'iilh tsun 'uw' hwun' 'uhwiin' kwunus hwun'a' nem' tseelhtun.  
*I have been going out fishing since I was very small.*

(3) ni' kwu'elh tl'uw' yu st'e tthunu me'mun'u, hwun' mumun'lh 'i' ni'  
wulh tseelhtun kws hwun'a' m'i tthu tsetsul'ulhtun'.  
*And so, my children also, they have all fished since they were very small.*

(4) ni' nem' 'a'ulh 'u thu thithu pout kwsus nem' tseelhtun.  
*They often go out on the big fishing boats for catching salmon.*

(5) tthey' ni' shhw'ula'ulh pout 'i' ni' tthu shni'stewut thu swultun.  
*Our boats have big drums that have the lines for our big nets.*

(6) swultun tthu ni' hakwushut kwtust kw'ayukw 'u tthus tseelhtun.  
*We use these nets when we troll for salmon.*

(7) ha' tst m'i tuyqul 'ewu 'utl' quw'utsun' 'i' ni' tl'uw' nets' tthu ni'  
hakwushut 'u kwutst tseelhtun.  
*When we moved over here to Cowichan, we do other kinds of fishing here.*

(8) tun'a nu sqwul'qwul' 'i' nilh Tyson kwus wulh 'apun 'i' kw' nuts'a'  
sil'anum.  
*My story is about my son Tyson, he is eleven years old.*

(9) ni' wulh qxelh kwsus nem' tseelhtun hunum' 'utl' Fraser River.  
*He's been fishing many times on the Fraser River.*

- (10) 'uw' yelh kwu'elh kwus yu tatul'utus kws tseelhtuns 'i 'u tun'a,  
Quw'utsun'.  
*He is just learning how to fish here in Cowichan.*
- (11) kwsus 'uw' hwun'a' 'i' nem' hi'wul'te'num',  
*When Tyson went rod fishing for the first time,*
- (12) 'i' 'uw' hayulh thu swultun niilh shtsetsul'ulhtun's.  
*previously he had only fished with a net.*
- (13) ni' nem' yu kwun'atul' 'u kwthu tslhi'le'ums 'i' kwthu mens kwthey'.  
*He went with his stepfather and the father of his stepfather.*
- (14) xuthiinu 'eelhtun.  
*There were four people in all.*
- (15) ni' yu kwun'atul' 'utl' Kevin ni' 'u thu nuts'a' pout.  
*He went with Kevin and on one boat*
- (16) hay nilh Wayne 'i' Kole yul'a'ulh thu nuts'a' skiff.  
*It was Wayne Sr. and Kole on the other boat, a skiff.*
- (17) kwun'etum 'utl' Tyson tthu swe's peyts'tuns.  
*Tyson was holding his own rod.*
- (18) yu sti'am'st-hwus tthu xut'ustum' jigs 'i' tthu lhukw'tun.  
*On the line, he put jigs and hook.*
- (19) hwul'i'hwtus jig 'i'ni'thulh tetul' 'u' thu mumun'lh kw'ul'i'kw'suts  
sus 'uw' hunum'nusum' 'u tthu stseelhtun.  
*It's a weighted jig and it imitates a little trout and attracts the salmon.*
- (20) nilh ni' hakwushus ni' stsme'lus.  
*That's what he used instead of bait.*

(21) yul'a'ulh tthey' xuthiinu 'u thu yuse'lu pout 'i' mukw 'uw'  
tspeeyts'tun.

*The four different people had rods on two separate boats.*

(22) hith kwus 'uw' 'aamutsun 'ul' 'eelhtun, they'tus tthu ni' hakwushus  
tse'.

*They sat a long time, waiting, staying prepared.*

(23) hwun' xut'u 'i' ni' wulh kweyuxum tthu swe's xwi'lum' 'utl' Tyson.

*Finally, there was a pull-on Tyson's line.*

(24) sis m'uw' hwkw'atus m'i qw'umxwutus tthu swe's reels.

*And he started winding in the reel.*

(25) 'i' thuqi' tthu ni' st'i'am' 'u tthu swe's lhukw'tuns.

*And there was a sockeye on the hook.*

(26) sis m'uw' xults'thut 'i' tl'uw' xults'thut peyts'tuns, sis m'uw' hwu  
stutes tthu thuqi'.

*He turned and turned the rod and the sockeye got closer.*

(27) sis 'uw' ts'ewutum 'utl' Kevin kwsu m'i hwkw'atus m'i telshus tthu  
tthu stseelhtun.

*Kevin helped him reeling in the fish.*

(28) tahw nuw' hwu stutes, tl'lim' 'uw' hwu stutes 'u tthu pout 'i' ni' hwi'  
qtl'umnamut tthu thuqi'.

*But just before they got it to the boat, the sockeye escaped from the  
hook.*

(29) sus nem' 'uw' huye', shtem huye'.

*And it started to swim off.*

(30) xwum kwus kwunutus tthey' 'uxthim'tun sus m'uw' telshus tthu  
stseelhtun kws ni's m'i kwunnuhw tthu stseelhtun kws hwuwe's niis  
nan 'uw' hwu ni' 'u tthu tl'up qa'.

*But he quickly grabbed the dipnet and he scooped it up with the net,  
while the sockeye was not yet too deep in the water.*

(31) t'ut'a'thut tthu'nilh thuqi' kws nem's 'utl'qulnamut 'i' skw'ey kws  
nem's 'utl'qulnamut 'u tthu 'uxthim'tun.

*The sockeye tried to swim out of the net, but it couldn't get out.*

(32) wulh ts'ewutum' 'utl' Kevin m'i lel'shum tthu swultun, m'i kwunnum  
'i' thuqi' 'i' tthu ni' sun'iw'

*But then Kevin helped too, and they pulled the net in, and it was a  
sockeye.*

(33) nilh 'uw' hwun'a' thuqi' ni' kwunnuhwus kwus 'u tthey' ni' sht'es  
kwus tse'tsul'ulhtun'.

*This was the first sockeye he caught fishing this way.*

(34) tun'a lhnimulh tthu ni' shtuhiim' tst 'i' ha' kwunnuhw tthu' hwun'a'  
'ul' kwunnuhwuhw 'un' shun'tsu 'i' nilh 'un' suw' mem't, nem' ch  
'amust kw' s'ul-hween'.

*Our custom is that you give your first catch away.*

(35) suw' kwunutum 'utl' Tyson tthu swe's thuqi's suw' 'ehwe't 'u thu  
si'lus, Dolly Sylvester.

*So, Tyson gave this sockeye away to his grandmother, Dolly Sylvester.*

(36) hay 'ul' 'uy' shqwaluwuns kwus kwunnuhwus tthu stseelhtun.

*She was glad he brought her the salmon.*

(37) 'i' tl'uw' 'uy' shqwaluwuns tthu'nilhs si'lus kws nilhs hay 'ul' 'uw'  
wulh hwun'a' kwunnuhwus stseelhtun.

*And she was happy for him for him getting his first catch.*

(38) hay 'ul' 'uy' shqwaluwun 'utl' Tyson kwus 'i tatul'nuhwus kws  
tsetsul'ulhtuns.

*Tyson was also happy to learn to fish.*

(39) 'i' nilh 'uw' shtuhiims tun'a lhnimulh hwun'ts'ulwum' kws nilhs tthu  
stseelhtun yath 'uw' kwen'nuhwut.

*Learning to fish is a way of life in our family.*

(40) ni' kwu'elh ni' tul'nuhwuhw sht'es kws kwen'nuhw tthu stseelhtuns  
swe'stuhws tthu'w' ts'lhwwumuhw 'i' kwsus mem't 'u tthu siiye'yus  
hwulmuhw.

*He also learns how to provide for his family and the giving ways of  
our people.*

(41) nilh ni' tl'uw' yu sht'es tthu shhwuw'welis, sul'si'lus, sts'a'lum'uqws.

*He's just like his parents, grandparents, and great grandparents.*

(42) yu sht'es tthu hwulmuhw shtatul'stuhws tthu tseelhtun kws  
hwiiw'tssun'uqs 'u tthu ni' sht'es yu hunum'ust-hwus 'u tthu smuneem's  
*There's a long line of knowledge of fishing passed down through  
generations.*

(43) nilh kwu'elh ni' sht'es kwutst sht'e 'uw' tl'lim' 'uw' kwunel's  
shtatul'na'mut 'u tthu sht'es tthu kw'atl'kwu qa', xut'ustum' Salish Sea.  
*And a connection and knowledge with the Salish Sea.*