

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fat Bear Week Contest

[explore.org](https://www.explore.org), [Katmai National Park](#), and [Katmai Conservancy](#) look forward to welcoming the world to the 5th annual Fat Bear Week Contest. This virally famous online event allows fans to celebrate the “gains” in pounds brown bears at Brooks Falls (viewed on [explore.org](#) cameras) have put on in preparation for winter hibernation with a March Madness style bracket system.

For the first time, [BBC America](#) will be joining in the celebration by sharing the stream on their website and encouraging viewers to participate in the Katmai National Park’s contest on social media for a co-branded experience. [explore.org](#), Katmai National Park and Conservancy look forward to this new partnership as we continue to grow Fat Bear Week and tell the story of the bears of Brooks Falls.

Details: Fat Bear Week 2019 is scheduled to begin Wednesday October 2nd and conclude with the winner announced on Fat Bear Tuesday, October 8, 2019. Voting will take place on [Katmai National Park’s Facebook page](#).

Mike Fitz [explore.org](#) naturalist/ former Katmai National Park ranger:

“Each bear lives a unique life and Fat Bear Week not only allows us to consider how much weight they gain through the summer, but also how they do it and what fat means for their survival. Juvenile bears like 909 continue to grow rapidly on their journey to adulthood, even as they face constant competition from larger bears. Big adult males like 747 and 32 Chunk rank near the top of the hierarchy and use their mass to maintain access to the best fishing spots. Single adult females like 128 Grazer and 435 Holly could give birth to cubs this winter. In the den, subsisting without food or water, they’ll need to use their fat reserves to sustain themselves as well as their tiny cubs.”

Founded in 2004 by Charles Annenberg Weingarten, Director and Vice President of the Annenberg Foundation, [explore.org](#) is a philanthropic multimedia organization with a mission to champion the selfless acts of others, create a portal into the natural world, and inspire lifelong learning. With almost 200 live streaming cameras, [explore.org](#) is the largest live nature network in the world.

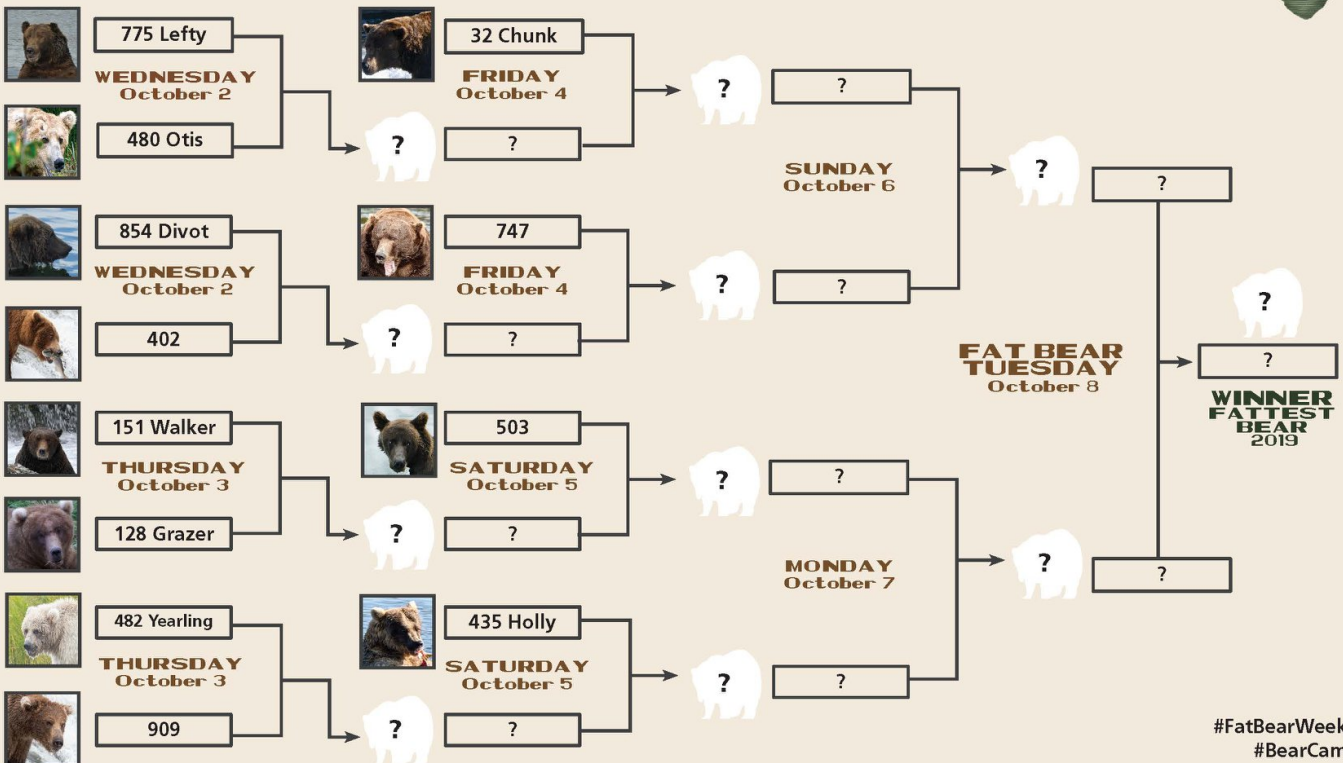
“Fat Bear” is a trademark held by Katmai Conservancy who’s mission is to promote greater public interest, appreciation, support and preservation for Katmai National Park and Preserve.

With another exceptionally large Bristol Bay salmon run in 2019, bears at Brooks River are once again remarkably fat. I thought Fat Bear Week 2018 might be the fattest Fat Bear Week ever, but the 2019 “contestants” look even larger! In a world wounded by climate change and extinction, Fat Bear Week provides us with the increasingly rare opportunity to celebrate and witness a robust, healthy ecosystem.”

Katmai National Park and Preserve



FAT BEAR WEEK 2019



#FatBearWeek
#BearCam

About

explore.org's brown bear cameras are brought to you live from Brooks Falls, Alaska in partnership with Katmai National Park and Katmai Conservancy. E-mail emily@explore.org for more information, statements, and crediting requirements for footage and live stream usage

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