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ICS2D

October 3, 2023

Fat Bear Week

Fat Bear Week is an annual celebration of the success of fattening Alaskan Brown Bears. The bears must gain enough weight to endure the treacherous Alaskan Winter to prepare for their upcoming hibernation, in which they sleep for months on end with no food in between, until they end hibernation in early April. Fat Bear Week takes place in the Katmai National Park in which its fattest bears get judged on who weighs the most, the fattest will be crowned the winner and win all the glory among their mates. To analyze the bears throughout the week they use cameras placed all around the park to analyze how much the bears are eating and how much they weigh, because it is physically impossible to get a 1 ton bear on a weighing scale scientists use lasers to approximately weigh the bears. Starting on October 4th fans can begin to vote on which bear they would like to win.

This year maybe one of the most intense Fat Bear Week in many years, as all of its competitors

are some of the world's fattest bears, notably Bear 747, he is one of the biggest bears ever seen by Katmai rangers and was described by a Katmai ranger to be, "more hippopotamus than bears at times.". He is also a former Fat Bear Week champion making him a formidable opponent for



the current Fat Bear Week champion Otis, a multiple time Fat Bear Week champion and one of



Otis, the multiple Fat Bear Week Champion. Photographer: C Spencer.

the world's most famous bears, commonly known for his appearance on Fat Bear Week livestreams as he patiently waits for salmon.

The Coastal Grizzly Bears of Alaska like Otis can get so big because of their wide availability to salmon,

salmon contains more fats than normal fish increasing the overall caloric density thus allowing them to fatten up the consumer better than any other fish.

The males usually range from 600 to 900 pounds (273 to 410 kilograms) in weight but during Fat Bear Week they can gain up to 800 pounds launching their weight from a measly 600 to an enormous 1,400 pounds (636 kilograms). To gain this weight the bears would usually eat up to two dozen salmon in a day, the most salmon eaten by a bear during Fat Bear Week was 15 salmon in just a few hours by the monstrous hippo bear 747. Bears would typically eat this much because throughout their 6 months of sleeping they would typically burn 600 pounds of fat and muscle and if they do not make up for this weight then they would typically die.

In the end, the sole reason for the creation of this event was to document and recognize how bears would survive through the tough winters of Alaska, from a niche little competition to a grand livestream to see big fat bears; it certainly is a wonderful little distraction from the stressful lives we all inhabit.

Works Cited

Kaufman, Mark. "Fat Bear Week is back. In 2023, the bears overcame big obstacles."
Mashable.com, 3, October, 2023, [Fat Bear Week](#).