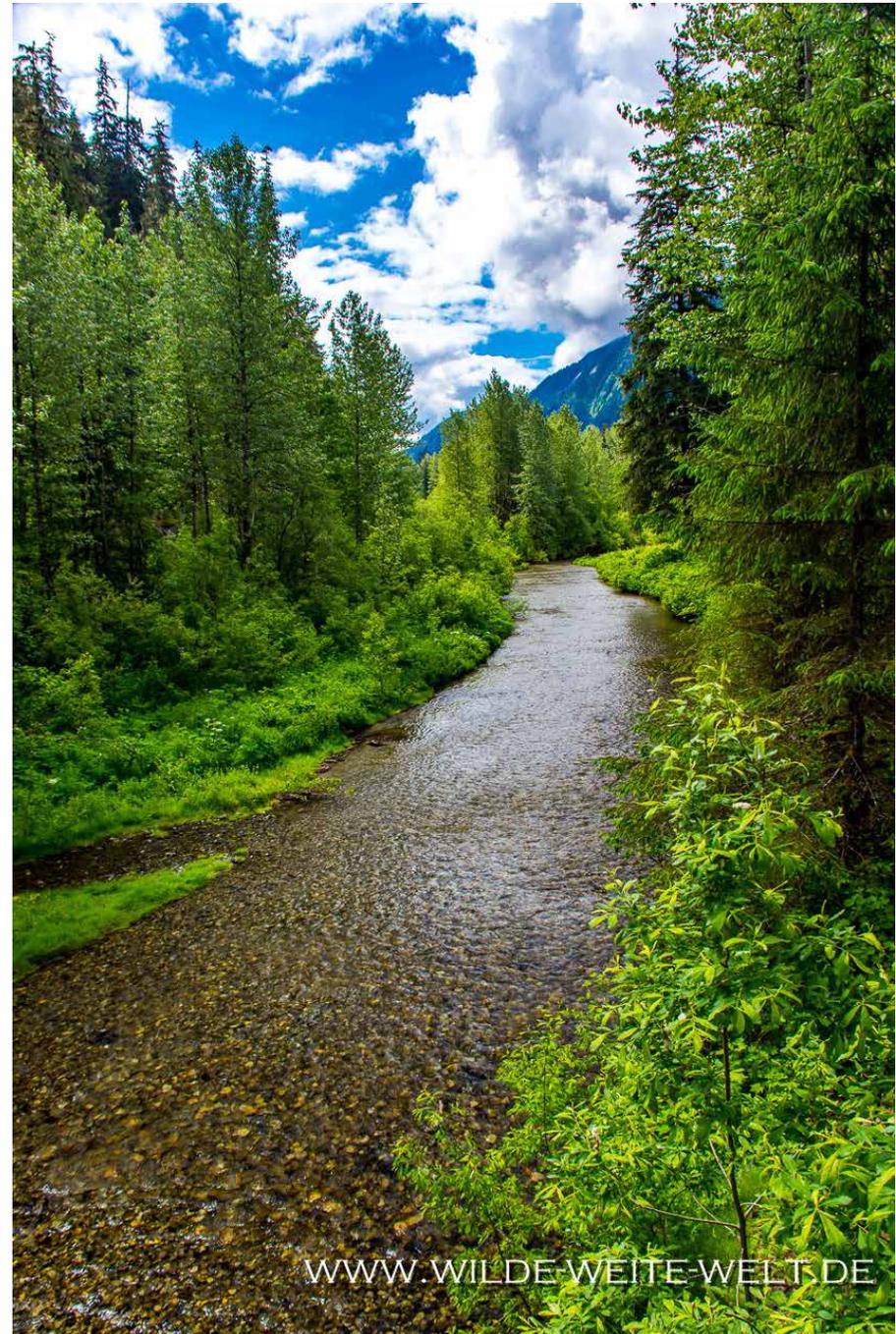
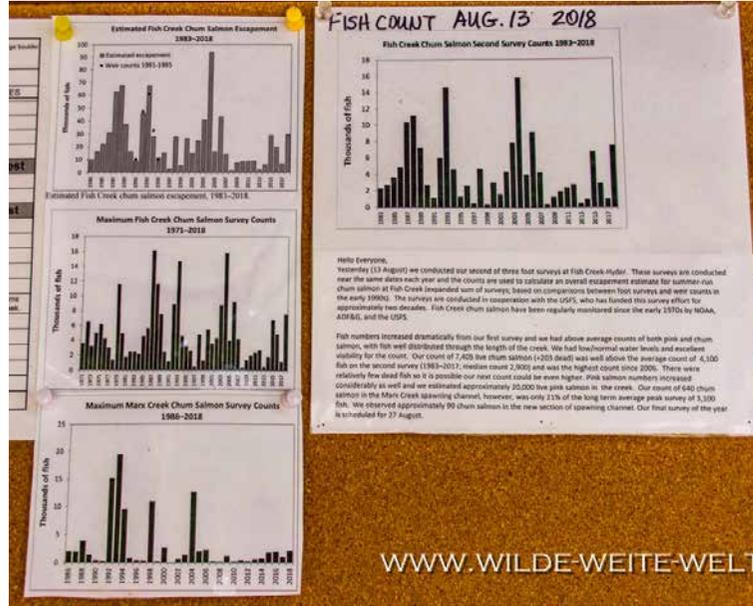


TAG 447 - 7.6.19 - FREITAG: FISH CREEK WILDLIFE OBSERVATION SITE [HYDER]

FISH CREEK WILDLIFE OBSERVATION SITE [HYDER]

Wohlwissend, dass wir viel zu früh im Jahr dran sind, statten wir der berühmten Viewing Plattform am Fish Creek in Hyder eine Stippvisite ab und bekommen von einem Forest Service Mitarbeiter ausführlich erzählt, was ab Mitte August passieren wird....



THE FAMOUS FISH CREEK



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TAG 447 - 7.6.19 - FREITAG: FISH CREEK WILDLIFE OBSERVATION SITE [HYDER]

KNOW YOUR BEARS—THE GRIZZLY

Each year, the abundant salmon at Fish Creek attract a gathering of grizzlies.

Brown Bear or Grizzly?
 Actually, either name is correct! Technically, biologists classify both as *Ursus arctos*—the brown bear. People generally call coastal bears "browns," while bears in the interior of Alaska are called "grizzlies." At Fish Creek, they are usually called "grizzlies."

Although bears are often known as carnivores, they also eat vegetation.

A Bear's Year
Winter—Bears are snug in winter dens. One to four cubs, each weighing less than one pound (0.45 kg), are born in January or February.

Spring—As the days lengthen, bears leave their dens to feed on fresh green grasses along shorelines and in sunny openings. Although solitary, adults may pair up for about a week in the May-July breeding season.

Summer—This is the season to put on the pounds! Bears spend most of their time feeding on a variety of fatty berries, protein-rich salmon, moss and shrub cabbage.

Fall—Before entering winter sleep, bears eat almost double their weight! Throughout fall, bears continue to eat and fat. As winter approaches, they locate a snug den high along the mountainside and fall into a deep sleep.

Individual fishing styles
 Roughly 50,000 grizzlies still roam Alaska. While populations are healthy in Alaska, populations in the "Lower 48" have decreased to less than 1,000 bears. Grizzlies depend on a wide range of habitat to meet their yearly needs. Keying into a dependable supply of protein, Fish Creek grizzlies will travel many miles from the surrounding forest to "fish up" on spawning salmon. Iyves with cubs, and young adults are the bears most commonly observed.

Grizzlies often have dark brown fur, but various shades of brown are not uncommon. Grizzlies are larger and weigh more than black bears. Adult grizzlies at Fish Creek generally weigh 300-900 pounds (137-408 kg).

Grizzlies come in different colors.

FRONT PAW PRINT REAR PAW PRINT

The print has no distinct notch in the instep.

A line across the top of the pad does not cross the instep.

ALASKA REGION UAS TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

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KNOW YOUR BEARS—THE BLACK BEAR

Sharing the stream with their larger cousins, black bears gather at Fish Creek to feed on spawning salmon.

Black bears are the most abundant and widely distributed of North America's bears. They live in most parts of Southeast Alaska. An estimated 100,000 black bears live in Alaska.

Although usually found in forests, bears follow their appetites from sea level to higher areas. Like brown bears, they will eat just about anything they can find.

Newly sprouted vegetation like shrub cabbage is important in the spring, while salmon and berries are critical in the summer and fall. Protein and fat-rich salmon help bears gain up to 20% of their average weight before they enter hibernation in the late fall. Deer, moose, elk, goats, and other insects are additional sources of protein.

Bears can swim long distances.

A line across the top of the pad crosses the instep.

The print has a distinct notch in the instep.

Black bears are generally black, but colors can range from cinnamon to white (Kermode bear), to a bluish-gray (glacier bear). Whatever the color, black bears are the smallest of North America's bears. An average-sized black bear stands about 29 inches (74 cm) at the shoulder and weighs about 200 pounds (91 kg).

Sows are very protective of their cubs.

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FISH CREEK CHUMS

Fish Creek Chum Salmon
 From July to September, the largest chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in North America return to spawn at Fish Creek. These chums can be twice as big as other chum salmon. Some weigh as much as a young sheep.

Chums are dirty red on the side and dusky below with irregular purplish green bands on the side (especially males). There are no distinct black spots.

Males have elongated, hooked jaws and enlarged teeth during spawning.

Males have prominent humps and elongated hooked snouts during spawning.

spawning colors

ocean-going colors

Fish Creek Pink Salmon
 Weighing up to four pounds, pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) are the smallest, but most abundant, of the Pacific salmon. They return from late July through early September to share the creek with chums. In Fish Creek, females lay up to 2,000 eggs in nests of sand.

Pinks are dark on the back and red with brownish green blotches on the side. Large oval black spots occur on the upper body and on both lobes of the tail.

spawning colors

ocean-going colors

Fish Creek chum salmon
 • 30-40 inches (77-102 cm)
 • 15-40 pounds (7-18 kg)

State and federal biologists continue to study Fish Creek chum salmon to better understand and manage activities that might affect this unique population.

Average pink salmon
 • 18 inches (46 cm)
 • 4 pounds (2 kg)

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