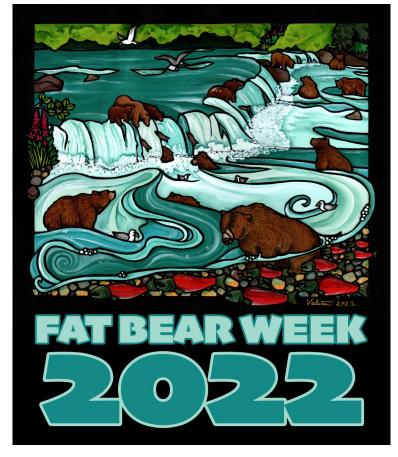# KATMAI CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

Fat Bear Week: October 5th - 11th

Which brown bear best transcends the ordinarily large and enters the realm of extraordinarily fat? Your vote decides in Fat Bear Week 2022. As Brooks River's world-famous bears make their final preparations for winter hibernation, Katmai Conservancy, explore.org, and rangers at Katmai National Park and Preserve celebrate their success.

What is Fat Bear Week? Fat Bear Week is an annual, single-elimination tournament. From October 5 – 11, the public votes online for the bear that they think best exemplifies fatness in Katmai's brown bears. The bear with the most votes advances. Only one is crowned Fat Bear Week champion.

After a record number of sockeye salmon returned to Bristol Bay this summer, Fat Bear Week 2022 might be the biggest ever. Through the explore.org bear cams, people from all over the world witnessed crowds of bears eagerly taking advantage of the bounty of returning salmon at Brooks Falls.

Fat Bear Week 2022 prints, t-shirts and more featuring the artwork of artist Valisa Higman available soon at katmaiconservancy.org!

From extra large female bears like 435 Holly and 128 Grazer to huge adult males like 747 and 151 Walker, the enormous brown bears of Brooks River have been packing on the pounds and are ready for the big competition! Can 480 Otis win his fifth Fat Bear Week title, or will another bear steal the crown? Bears 747 and 32 Chunk are giants, but do they have what it takes to hibernate with the title of 2022 Fat Bear Week champion?

"With each passing year, I find myself more in love with the brown bears," says explore.org founder Charlie Annenberg Weingarten. "From 747 to the beloved Otis and the relationship between sisters 909 and 910 and their cubs, the magic of the bears never ceases to amaze. It is a privilege to be a steward for Katmai National Park and work alongside the Katmai Conservancy and park rangers. Fat Bear Week is for the fans! It is a party that celebrates the March Madness of Nature!"