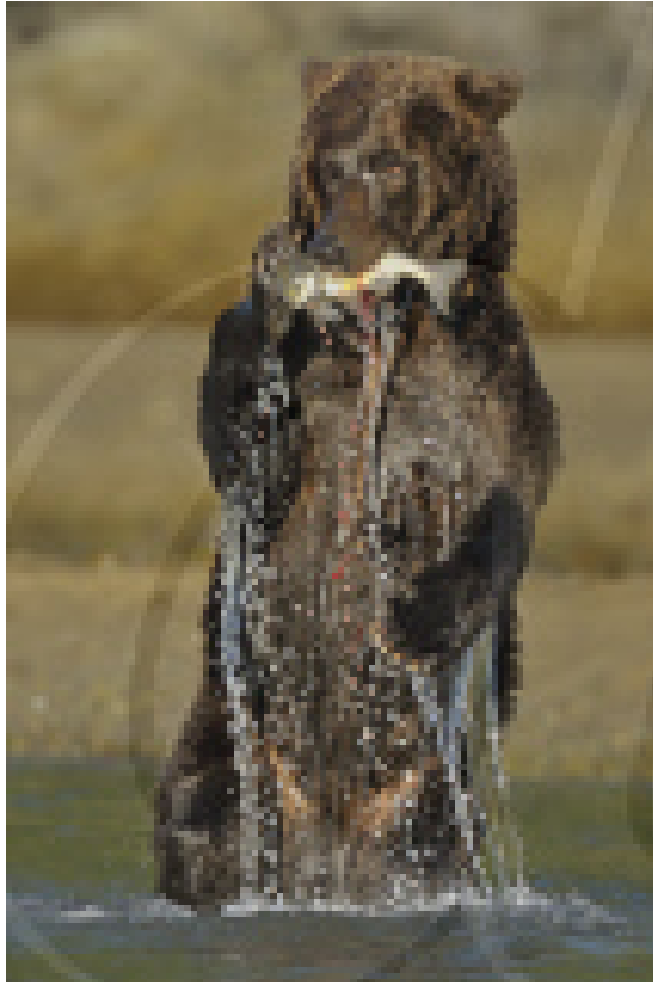


Grizzly Bears Hunting for fish, Alaska



Reference

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Title

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Caption

Mandatory Credit: Photo by Andy Rouse / Rex Features (1273922e)

Gone Fishin'

When it comes to catching a salmon supper it would seem that some of these grizzlies know little more than the bear necessities.

Professional wildlife photographer Andy Rouse got to watch the hungry bears at work during a three week trip to Alaska during the heart of the salmon spawning season.

He comments: "I was on foot with the grizzlies, no safety net, no car, just completely open.

"I got very, very close and they weren't taking any notice of me whatsoever. They were just there to fish".

When it comes to landing the perfect salmon there's a certain knack, which some bears have and some do not.

Andy comments: "When fishing they wait for conditions to be right; when the incoming tide brings the salmon up the river to spawn.

"The bears basically stand in the river looking and watching for fish in the water and when they spot one they will literally charge after it.

"Some of them are really good but some are not the best fishermen on the planet and will simply charge around in circles without catching anything".

However, during salmon spawning season even the least skilled bear can't help but get a bellyful of fish.

Andy adds: "Some of the salmon runs we went to were incredible.

"At places there were so many salmon the grizzlies would just watch them swimming between their legs because they'd eaten so many. They couldn't eat anymore.

"Some of them could barely move because they were so full".

Even the youngsters were keen to get in on the act with one small six month old cub, who would normally be too young to fish, trying his paw.

Andy comments: "Spring cubs do not fish; they don't normally try, just stick close to mother. But this little guy was running backwards and forwards in the river fishing.

"The water was deeper than he was but he was so close to catc...

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DUKAS

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Andy Rouse / Rex Features

Original references