

Climate and Salmon Timing Set the Pace for Bear Tours in Alaska, Says Muddy Water Adventures

Muddy Water Adventures shares how salmon timing and climate patterns influence peak bear viewing at Anan Wildlife Observatory for 2025.

WRANGELL, AK, UNITED STATES, August 28, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Muddy Water](#)

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Our goal is to help guests experience Anan at its best. By watching salmon runs and weather, we guide visitors to times when bears are most active while keeping safety and respect for wildlife first.”

Owner

[Adventures](#), a Wrangell-based tour operator founded by local captain and guide Zach Taylor, announced its 2025 outlook for bear tours in Alaska at the Anan Wildlife Observatory—emphasizing how shifting salmon run timing and in-season weather patterns influence when, where, and how travelers experience close-range bear viewing in the Tongass National Forest. From July 5 through August 25, the observatory’s peak season coincides with one of Southeast Alaska’s most extensive pink salmon runs, which attracts a high density of black bears and a smaller population of brown bears to Anan Creek.

Availability is limited during the July–August permit window. To check dates, request guidance on timing, or reserve a spot, visit <https://www.muddywateradventures.com/tour/an-an-bears-tour-wrangell-alaska/> or call +1 907 305 0206.

The company’s Anan Bears Tour is a 5–to 6-hour, fully guided experience departing from Wrangell’s City Dock by boat, then following a half-mile forest trail to the viewing decks and photo blind. Most days include ~3 hours of bear viewing from multiple vantage points. The U.S. Forest Service requires permits during peak season (July 5–August 25) and limits daily access to protect wildlife and the visitor experience.

Data Points and What’s New for Visitors

- Peak window and permits: July 5–August 25 permits are mandatory; authorized guide companies manage most access. A limited number of non-guided permits (12/day) are available for travelers with their own boat or floatplane via Recreation.gov.
- Trail and platform: The trail is a half-mile gravel path with steps and bridges; the photo blind is

accessed via stairs equivalent to several stories.

- Safety protocols: No food is allowed on the trail or at the observatory. Muddy Water guides are trained and equipped with bear spray and high-powered rifles, and they brief guests on safe conduct.

- Climate and Salmon: What Travelers Should Expect

While Anan's permit window is fixed, the timing of salmon can flex within it. Snowpack, stream temperatures, precipitation, and nearshore conditions shape pink salmon runs. In years with earlier thaws or warmer water, bears may be more active earlier in July; in cooler years, peak activity can cluster later. Muddy Water Adventures encourages guests to build date flexibility where possible and consult with the company for guidance based on live conditions.

Importantly, the Anan Wildlife Observatory is one of the rare sites where visitors can see both black and brown bears using the same creek system, which amplifies activity when salmon are moving. Guests also frequently encounter bald eagles and marine wildlife along the way.

About Muddy Water Adventures

Founded in 2016 by Wrangell native Zach Taylor, Muddy Water Adventures operates wildlife and glacier tours across the Wrangell area, including the Anan Bears Tour, Stikine River, and Ocean Wildlife. The team comprises local captains, deckhands, and guides with extensive knowledge of local conditions and wildlife behavior. The company prioritizes safety, education, and conservation-minded travel in Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

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