



# Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

Kodiak is a rugged beautiful island off the coast of southwestern Alaska. Kodiak Refuge occupies about two-thirds of the island. The refuge was established in 1941 to protect the habitat of brown bear and other wildlife.

## ALASKA'S EMERALD ISLE

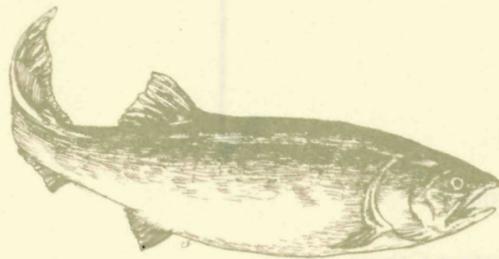
Kodiak's scenery is magnificent - rugged mountains, hundreds of miles of shoreline, lakes, marshes, bogs, and meadows. Four-thousand-foot mountains rise from the sea accented with fjordlike inlets. Lush vegetation blankets the mountains ranging from sedges, alders and spruce to colorful wildflowers and berries.

## A HOME FOR WILDLIFE

Kodiak Refuge belongs to the bears, eagles, and the salmon. The first two flourish largely because of the abundance of the last. The refuge is known world-wide for the Kodiak brown bear. Besides the brown bear, five other native land mammals live on Kodiak - red fox, river otter, short-tail weasel, little brown bat, and tundra vole. Introduced mammals include the Sitka black-tailed deer, beaver, snowshoe hare, and the mountain goat. Whales, porpoises, seals, sea otters, and sea lions inhabit the bays.

The interior of the refuge is covered by dense vegetation. Fireweed grows to five or six feet often mixed with salmonberry, blueberry, and rose bushes. Dense thickets of willow, alder, and elderberry abound. Devil's club grows heavily in the woods and on the slopes with thorns that can penetrate leather.

Wetlands abound. The island has hundreds of miles of convoluted coastline and tidal zones, seven major watersheds, 11 large lakes, shallow marshes, bogs, salt flats, and meadows. No place on the refuge is more than 15 miles from the ocean.



## FISHERIES - PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Kodiak Refuge provides spawning and rearing habitat for five species of Pacific salmon - pink, chinook, chum, sockeye, and silver. The adult salmon return to Kodiak's streams in late May to September decreasing in number by October. Approximately 70 percent of the salmon harvested by commercial fishermen in the Kodiak area originate from the streams on the refuge. Other abundant fish include: steelhead, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, and Arctic char. These fish spawn in freshwater streams on the island. Salmon usually spend one to five years at sea feeding on a variety of food from plankton to small fish. Other species important to the commercial fishing industry include halibut, other bottomfish, and crab.

## OVER 200 SPECIES OF BIRDS

Shoreline marshes attract waterfowl and seabirds. Bays harbor Arctic and Aleutian terns, scaup, scoter, mallard, pintail, bufflehead, and harlequin ducks. Song sparrows, rock sandpipers, and turnstones reside on the beaches. Shoreline rocks and cliffs are home to black-legged kittiwakes, horned and tufted puffins, black oystercatchers, and common murre. Other common island birds include: northwestern crows, black-billed magpies, ravens, glaucous-winged gulls, fox sparrows, golden-crowned sparrows, Wilson's warblers, golden-crowned kinglets, winter wrens, pine siskins, water pipits, rock and willow ptarmigan, Lapland longspurs, and Savannah sparrows.

## BROWN BEAR

Kodiak brown bears are the world's largest carnivore. Large females weigh about 650 pounds and males can weigh up to 1,500 pounds. When the bears emerge from their dens in the spring their diet consists of sedges and grasses until salmon are available. They feed primarily on salmon until late summer when berries become the mainstay of their diet. Most bears enter winter dens from late October to mid-December. They remain in dens without food or water until spring.

## BALD EAGLES

Bald eagles reside year-round on the refuge in such numbers as to be considered very common. At least 200 pairs nest on the shoreline pinnacles, cliffs, and cottonwood trees.

## WORKING WITH WILDLIFE

Early studies on the Alaskan brown bear were done on Kodiak. Now researchers have improved methods of trapping and marking bears to study bear ecology. Using new equipment such as miniaturized transmitters, biologists can determine how far bears travel, how many cubs they produce, and their life span. Transmitters are also used to monitor the movements of bald eagles, salmon, and steelhead.



- Some of the lands formerly part of the refuge are now under Native ownership. These areas must be respected as private property. Visitors should obtain permission to use private lands. If you are uncertain about land status contact the refuge office.
- Recreational activities include wildlife observation, photography, rafting, canoeing, camping, backpacking, hiking, hunting, and fishing. A limited number of recreational cabins are available on a reservation basis.
- Information on hunting and fishing is also available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Address: 211 Mission Road, Kodiak, Alaska 99615, Tele: 907-486-4791.)
- It is advisable to check with refuge personnel prior to a visit to determine which activities are allowed and what regulations apply.



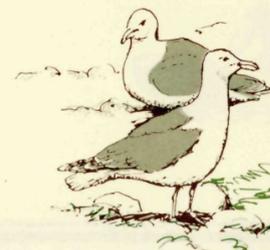
## RECREATION

Kodiak Refuge offers superb recreational opportunities but presents formidable challenges. Reached only by float-plane or boat, the refuge covers 1.865 million acres on Kodiak, Uganik, and Afognak Islands.

- A visitor center is located on the Buskin Beach Road offering displays and trip planning information. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. A program on Kodiak Island's wildlife is available upon request. In addition, the refuge staff offers interpretive programs for visitors and assistance to schools and other groups interested in outdoor classroom experiences.

## WEATHER

The weather on Kodiak Island is generally cool and wet. Despite relatively mild winter temperatures, weather and winds are unpredictable. The weather can differ within short distances because of varied terrain. Flying can be hazardous and flights can be delayed for days. Visitors should take extra food as a precaution against weather problems.



# Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge



AKR 107-1-11/85  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES

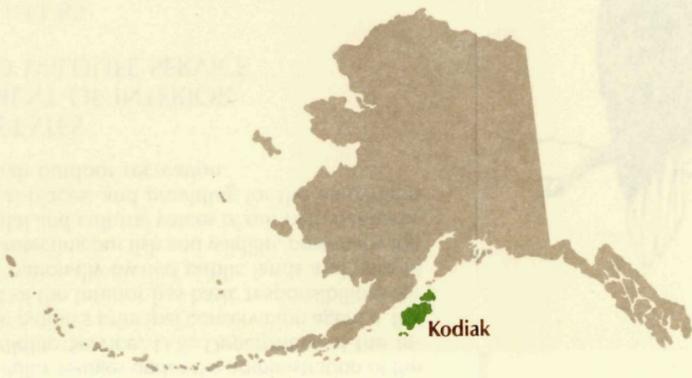
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge is part of a nationwide system of wildlife refuges under the administration of the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation.



Refuge Manager,  
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
1390 Buskin River Road  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
Telephone: (907) 487-2600

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

# Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge



Shelikof Strait

Strait

Pacific Ocean

Ocean



- LEGEND**
- Road System
  - Refuge Boundary
  - Refuge Recreation Cabins
  - Kodiak Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center



Tugidak Island  
Sitkinak Island

Shuyak Island  
FOU Bay  
Ban Island  
AFOGNAK ISLAND  
Marmot Island

Raspberry Island  
KUPREANOF STRAIT  
MARMOT BAY  
Whale Island  
Spruce Island

Uganik Island  
Viekoda Bay  
Uganik Lake  
Uganik River  
Little River  
Squidon Lake  
Chief Cove  
Karluk  
Larsen Bay  
Karluk Lake  
Koniag Peak

Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center  
Kodiak  
CHINIAK BAY

North Frazer  
Frazer Lake  
Akalara Lake  
Frazer  
Upper Station Lakes  
Akhiok

Old Harbor  
UGAK BAY  
KILUDA BAY  
Srikaliok Island

ALITAK BAY  
ALIULIK PENINSULA  
DEADMAN BAY  
THREE SAINTS BAY