



# RIVER OTTERS



Part of the Mustelid (weasel) Family

Otters are extremely curious and playful and often slide on ice or snow, shoot down slick muddy banks into creeks, play with food, sticks and stones, and wrestle each other.

## Fun Facts:

- ▶ Like other members of the weasel family, otters have anal musk glands that release a pungent odor when they are frightened.
- ▶ Otters can travel underwater a quarter-mile without coming up for air, dive 35 to 50 feet, and stay submerged up to 4 minutes.
- ▶ Otters are the most elusive aquatic mammal in Pennsylvania.

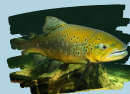


## Why is Otter predation uncommon?

Few predators can catch an Otter



## Diet:



- Omnivore
- Fish, frogs, turtles, snails, mussels, crayfish, snakes and snake eggs, worms, insects, aquatic plants, roots and, on occasion, birds and small mammals

## Habitat:



- In Pennsylvania, otters occur in every major river system and are absent only in watersheds with significant water-quality problems.