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COMMON NAME – Northern River Otter

SCIENTIFIC NAME – *Lontra canadensis*

DESCRIPTION –

- Body length – 26 to 42 inches
- Tail length – 12 to 18 inches
- Weight – 6 to 31 lbs.
- Round, small head with large whiskers
- Muscular body with powerful legs
- Glossy, dark brown fur

RANGE/HABITAT –

- Canada, Alaska, Pacific Northwest, Atlantic states, Gulf of Mexico
- Both freshwater and coastal marine habitats including lakes, rivers, and wetlands
- Live in “dens” formed in other animal burrows, under logs, or in river banks

DIET –

- Mainly fish
- Also insects, frogs, and crustaceans
- May also hunt ducks, geese, and herons

FACTS -

- Otters like to slide down river banks into water
- On land, otters can run up to 18 mph
- In captivity, otters may live up to 25 years!
- Can swim in circles, creating a whirlpool that brings fish to the surface.