

Carpenter Creek Estuary Wildlife



MAMMALS



River Otter
(*Lontra Canadensis*)
The river otter is a keystone species, meaning they have great impact on the

local ecology. Their diet consists of mainly aquatic organisms such as amphibians, fish, turtles, crayfish, crabs, and other invertebrates.

Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*)
Beavers are the largest rodents living in North America, averaging 40 lbs. Their favorite food to eat is the leaves, inner bark, and twigs of deciduous trees.



Beavers are very important to the local ecosystem because of the dams they build.

Dall's Porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*)
Porpoises travel in groups from 2 to 20 individuals but can be seen in larger loose groups of sometimes a thousand individuals and with other whales and dolphins. They feed on small schooling fish, octopus, squid, and occasionally crabs and shrimp.



BIRDS



Belted Kingfisher
(*Megaceryle alcyon*)
Kingfishers perch and hover over open water watching for prey like small fish, crayfish, frogs, and tadpoles.

After sighting their prey, they dive headfirst into the water and grab it with their bills.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Hunting herons stand silently along the water's edge waiting for their prey to pass by. Prey can include fish, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, small mammals, and some other birds. They are mainly solitary colonies.



Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

The Merganser has special underwater vision to help them see their prey while diving. Prey consists of small fish, crustaceans, and aquatic insects.



AMPHIBIANS



Pacific Tree Frog
(*Pseudacris regilla*)
Much of the tree frog's diet consists of insects and

anthropods and they can eat insects almost as large as they are. They do this by expanding their jaws and bodies to accommodate their meals.

Rough Skinned Newts (*Taricha granulosa*)

To fend off predators the newt produces a neurotoxin from their skin that can cause paralysis and death. They tend to feed on invertebrates, salamander and frog eggs and larvae, and even tiny fish.



Long-Toed Salamander
(*Ambystoma macrodactylum*)

As adults the salamander lives mostly in rotten logs or moist places underground such as animal burrows. Their diet consists of worms, mollusks, insects, and spiders.



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