

4th Annual
**Freshwater Mussels
Of
the Pacific Northwest
Symposium**

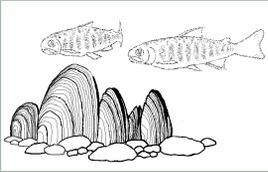
~ **Mussel Currents** ~



April 17th, 2007
Water Resources Education Center, Vancouver, WA

Hosted by:
**the Pacific Northwest Native
Freshwater Mussel Workgroup**

“Dedicated to conservation of Pacific Northwest drainage mussel populations and promoting restoration, protection, education, and identification of further research needs.”



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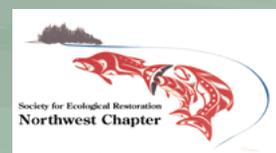
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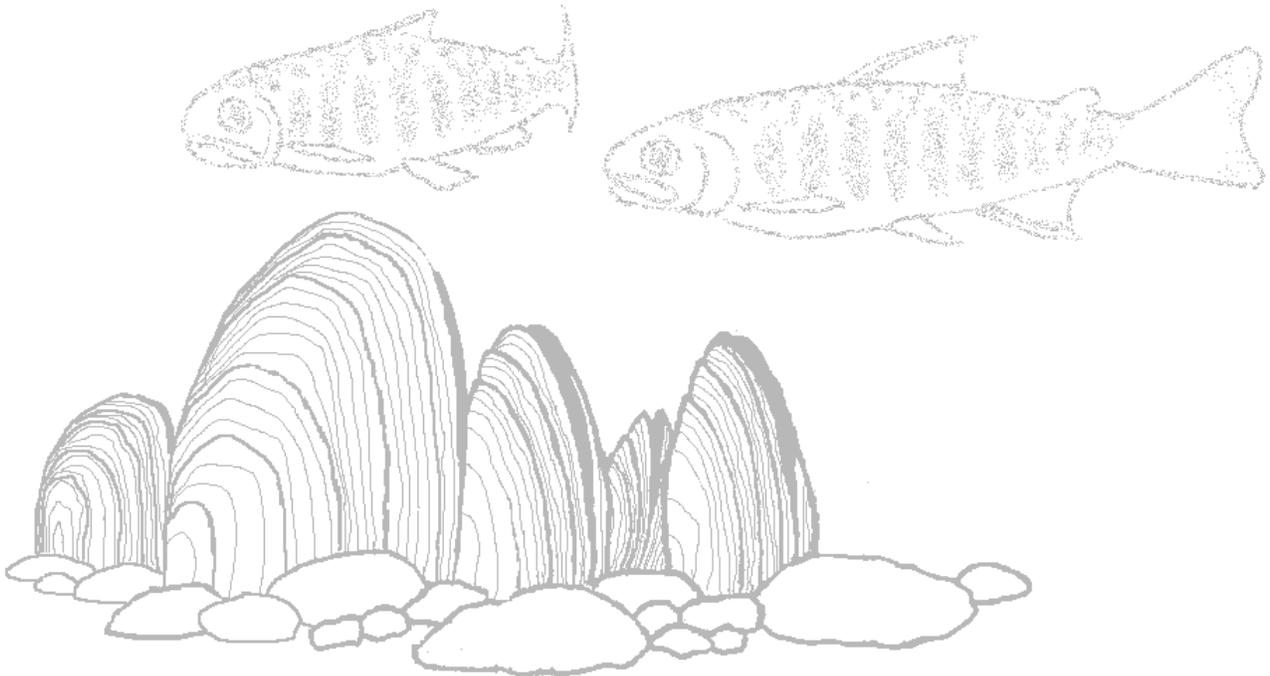
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About the Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup

History

The status of the seven species of freshwater mussels native to the Pacific Northwest has received very little attention, despite the fact that freshwater mussels in general are considered the most endangered group of animals in North America. On February 19, 2003, a workshop on freshwater mussels was held in Vancouver, Washington that consisted of presented papers and a panel discussion. The purpose of the workshop was to initiate discussion on the regional population status of freshwater mussels. The workshop was attended by 91 participants of very diverse backgrounds. From this meeting, the Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup was founded.

Purpose

The purpose of the Workgroup is to provide an open forum for discussions focusing on native freshwater mussels, dissemination of related information, and to provide guidance on integrated planning of mussel research, management, and education. The goal of the Workgroup is to ensure that freshwater mussel research, management, and educational activities are coordinated, prioritized, and are consistent with information needs identified.

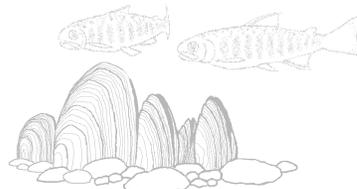
Composition

Current representation includes: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U. S. Bureau of Land Management; U. S. Forest Service (Utah); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Washington and Alaska); U.S Geological Survey; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Washington Department of Natural Resources; Snohomish County Government, Washington; Portland State University; University of Washington; Jamestown S'klallam Tribe; The Nature Conservancy; Wild Fish Conservancy; Deixis Consultants; Tetra Tech, Inc.; Bear Creek Water Tenders, Washington; Xerces Society and retired biologists.

Process

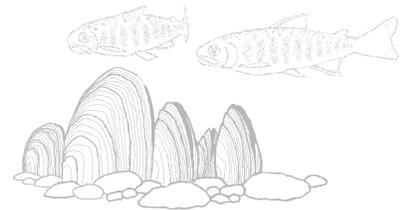
Members of the Workgroup hold an annual freshwater mussel symposium, which may be attended by anyone, for the purpose of reviewing the state of mussel research, management, and education. The location of the annual symposium rotates throughout the Pacific Northwest. Members of the Workgroup meet at least four times per year either in person, via teleconference, or by proxy) to review projects, coordinate work, discuss research priorities, and conduct other associated activities. Workgroup meeting locations rotate throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Visit the Workgroup web site: <http://www.fws.gov/columbiariver/musselwg.htm>

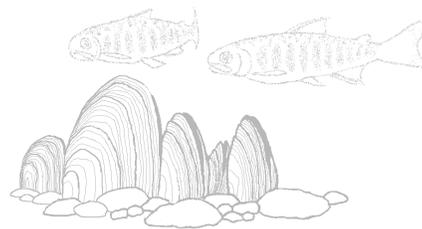


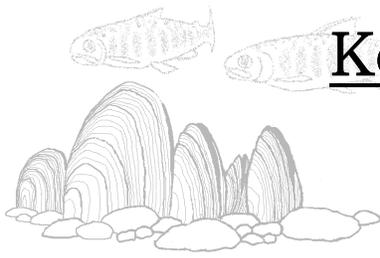
AGENDA

- 8:00 am - 8:50 am Sign in, pick up lunch ticket and program, coffee and tea provided
- 8:50 am - 9:00 am “Welcome to the 4th Annual Pacific Northwest Freshwater Mussels Symposium”
Al Smith, chair of the Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup, Hillsboro, OR
- 9:00 am - 10:00 am **“Genetic Division in Western Freshwater Mussels”**
Karen Mock, Utah State University, Logan, UT
- 10:00 am - 10:15 am Break, refreshments and beverages provided
- 10:15 am - 10:20 am “Bear Creek Session Introduction”
Wendy Walsh, Bear Creek Water Tenders, Woodinville, WA
- 10:20 am - 10:45 am “Population Dynamics of the Freshwater Mussel, *Margaritifera Margaritifera falcata* in Western Washington”
Kelly Toy, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Sequim, WA
- 10:45 am - 11:10 am “Ecological, Water and Sediment Quality Assessment to Identify the Cause of the Freshwater Mussel (*Margaritifera falcata*) Decline in a Washington Stream”
Deborah Lester, King County Metro, Water and Land Resources Division, Seattle, WA
- 11:10 am - 11:35 am “Size, Age Distribution and Growth Rate of Three Populations of Freshwater Mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*) in King County, Washington”
Bob Brenner, King County Metro, Water and Land Resources Division, Seattle, WA
- 11:35 am - 12:00 pm “A Freshwater Mussel Relocation Experiment to Investigate *Margaritifera falcata* Mortality in Bear Creek, Washington”
Arden Thomas, University of Washington Graduate Student, Seattle, WA
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch; poster session



- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm ***“Silence of the Clams”***
Tom Watters, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2:00 pm - 2:25 pm *“Using Watertype Assessments to Protect Streams”*
 Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy, Olympia, WA
- 2:25 pm - 2:50 pm *“Status and Management of Western Pearlshells (*Margaritifera falcata*) on the Flathead Reservation, Montana”*
 Daniel McGuire, McGuire Consulting, Kennewick, WA
- 2:50 pm - 3:15 pm *“Two Dives in 1984, Two Rolls Exposed, and the Mussels were Spawning”*
 John Ratliff, Naturalist, Beaverton, OR
- 3:15 pm - 3:35 pm Afternoon break, refreshments, posters
- 3:35 pm - 4:00 pm *“Streamlined Survey to Document Relative Abundance and Distribution of Freshwater Mussels in Wadeable Streams”*
 Jake Jacobson, Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management, Everett, WA
- 4:00 pm - 4:25 pm *“Effects of Suction Dredge Mining on the Short-term Survival of Freshwater Mussels in the Similkameen River, Washington”*
 Kirk Krueger, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA
- 4:25 pm - 4:50 pm *“Factors Associated with the Localized Distribution of Adult and Juvenile Freshwater Mussels (*Bivalvia:Unionoidea*)”*
 Brian Adair, ENTRIX, Inc., Olympia, WA
- 4:50 pm - 5:15 pm *“Age and Growth of *Margaritifera falcata* in the Pacific Northwest – Climate, Geography and Life History Variability”*
 Jason Dunham, United States Geological Survey, Corvallis, OR
- 5:15 pm - 5:30 pm *“Closing Remarks”*
 Al Smith, chair of the Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup, Hillsboro, OR

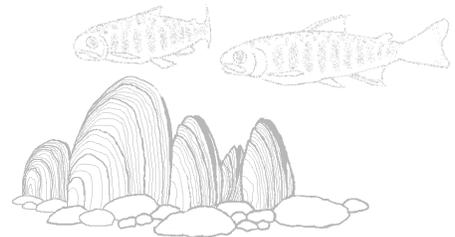




Keynote Speakers

KAREN MOCK

I am currently an assistant professor in the Wildland Resources Department at Utah State University, where my research program involves population genetics in a variety of terrestrial and aquatic species, including galliform birds, cyprinid fishes, mountain pine beetles, and unionid mussels. Although the species in my research program vary widely, there are some common threads with respect to conservation and restoration, which I think are particularly applicable and unexplored in freshwater mussels. Recently, my lab has been involved in research on freshwater mussel population dynamics in the western US and Canada, including the Bonneville Basin of Utah, the Columbia River and its tributaries, and several other localities. We are in the process of assembling large landscape-scale phylogeographic data on *Anodonta*, *Gonidea*, and *Margaritifera*. In these freshwater mussel endeavors I am collaborating with Jayne Brim Box, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Art Bogan, Randy Hoeh, JerPin Chong, and Joseph Furnish.



TOM WATTERS

I am a native of pastoral Beaver Creek, Ohio. At an early age I became enthralled by seashells, and infused with a healthy dose of the Jacques Cousteau syndrome, I embarked on a career in malacology. This led me to the University of Miami for my BS and the University of Rhode Island for my MS. Through a peculiar set of circumstances I ended up back in Ohio for my PhD at THE Ohio State University. Noting a profound lack of oceans in the area, I switched to freshwater mollusks. I currently am the Curator of Molluscs at the Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity, which houses over 2 million freshwater mollusc specimens., I am also the Science Director for the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Research Facility. I have served as past president of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society. In addition to mussels, my other interests include the phylogeny and zoogeography of Caribbean landsnails and GIS approaches to mollusc surveys and collections.

SPEAKER ABSTRACTS

(in order of appearance)

GENETIC SUBDIVISION IN WESTERN FRESHWATER MUSSELS, Karen E. Mock¹, Jer Pin Chong¹, David Wolf², Jeanette Howard², and Jayne Brim Box². 1Wildland Resources Department, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5230. 2Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, PO Box 638, Pendleton, Oregon 97801.

Genetic analysis of western freshwater mussels has revealed a set of surprising results, both at the population level and at the systematic (taxonomic) level. Prior to our research, three genera were thought to comprise the western freshwater mussel taxa. Our results suggest, however, that “*Anodonta*” may actually comprise up to three distinct genera. Furthermore, a comparative analysis of *Anodonta* populations and *Margaritifera falcata* populations suggests that patterns of gene flow in these taxa are quite distinct, likely reflecting distinct dispersal mechanisms. I will be summarizing our genetic research over the past 4 years, focusing primarily on the Columbia River and its tributaries. I will include an overview of genetic techniques used in our research, and summarize our current sampling needs. Additionally, my coauthors and I will provide a set of preserved specimens (representing different genetic lineages) for conference participants to view.

POPULATION DYNAMICS OF THE FRESHWATER MUSSEL, *MARGARITIFERA MARGARITIFERA FALCATA* IN WESTERN WASHINGTON (1996-2006), Kelly A. Toy¹ and Lee Hastie². 1Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Sequim WA, 98382. 2Department of Zoology, University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, Scotland U.K.

Margaritifera margaritifera falcata is the most common species found in Western Washington streams, however little is known about their life history and distribution. Surveys were conducted in Battle Creek, on the Tulalip Reservation and Bear Creek in Woodinville in 1995 and re-surveyed in 2006. Mussels were histologically examined to determine the gametogenic cycle for both streams. *M. m. falcata* is dioecious with occasional hermaphroditism (<1%). *M. m. falcata* was found to have a tachytictic (short-term) breeding strategy, producing a single brood late spring to early summer. Sexual maturity is achieved between 9 and 12 years and was size dependent. Water temperature was found to influence the progression of the gametogenic cycle and growth rate between streams. Significant declines in mussel numbers had occurred in both streams during the past decade. In Bear Creek, overall density estimates dropped, from 56.0–6.9 mussels.m⁻². In Battle Creek, overall density estimates also dropped, from 80.7–13.4 mussels.m⁻² in 2006. Large numbers of empty shells were also found in Bear Creek in 2006, indicating high levels of mortality during the past decade. The disproportionate loss of large, old mussels resulted in a forward shift in modal age class, from 51-60 years to 31-40 years over the decade. In Battle Creek, survival appeared to be higher, although significant numbers of shells were also found in places. A lack of juvenile mussels indicated recruitment problems, possibly due to habitat degradation following

colonization of the stream corridor by beavers (*Castor canadensis*) and/or a lack of migratory host fish. Effective remedial actions for the Bear Creek and Battle Creek *M. m. falcata* populations are required within the next 5-10 years and 50 years, respectively in order to ensure their long-term survival.

ECOLOGICAL, WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSE OF THE FRESHWATER MUSSEL (*MARGARITIFERA FALCATA*) DECLINE IN A WESTERN WASHINGTON STREAM, Deb Lester, Bob Brenner and Dean Wilson. King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Water and Land Resources Division, 201. S. Jackson Street, Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98104.

Freshwater mussels are declining nationwide due to a variety of factors including habitat and water quality degradation and loss of host fish populations. Bear Creek, located in a relatively undeveloped watershed in King County, Washington has historically supported a healthy population of *Margaritifera falcata*. However, concern regarding *M. falcata* in upper Bear Creek has recently increased with reports of dead and dying mussels and a severe decline in numbers; while Cottage Lake Creek which is parallel to upper Bear Creek and a tributary to lower Bear Creek, supports a relatively healthy *M. falcata* population. It is suspected that the Bear Creek *M. falcata* decline is more acute than the regional population decline observed in other areas in region. To better understand the Bear Creek mussel decline, two monitoring efforts were undertaken. The first effort evaluated mussel distribution, sex ratio, histology and substrate preference in Bear Creek and two streams (Stossel and Covington Creeks) that support relatively healthy mussel populations. The second effort evaluated sediment and water quality in Bear and Cottage Lake creeks. Sediment and water (collected under base- and storm flow conditions) quality samples were analyzed for conventional parameters, metals, organic compounds including pesticides and some endocrine disrupting compounds; toxicity tests were conducted on a subset of sediment samples. Bear Creek mussels had a 4:1 (M:F) sex ratio, and histology results indicated severe gill damage and disease. Stossel and Covington creek mussels had more balanced sex ratios and did not exhibit similar histological effects. Metals and a limited number of organic compounds were detected in surface waters and sediments; concentrations in water did not exceed criteria or other available toxicity thresholds. No toxicity was observed for *Hyallela azteca* and *Chironomus tentans*; toxicity testing with *Lampsilis siliquoidea* will be conducted in 2007.

SIZE, AGE DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH RATE OF THREE POPULATIONS OF FRESHWATER MUSSELS (*MARGARITIFERA FALCATA*) IN KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, Bob Brenner and Hans B. Berge. King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Water and Land Resources Division, 201. S. Jackson Street, Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98104.

The age structure of a mussel population offers important insight into population dynamics. Information gathered from surveys of three populations in western King County was used to describe the mussel population in a 100 m reach of each stream. Relationships between mussel size and density and various habitat characteristics were evaluated. Mussels were

collected in each population and the remaining portions of hinge ligaments were measured and the annuli were counted. Initial attempts to determine age were thwarted by the inability to accurately and consistently measure the total length of the hinge ligament. Several features on both valves were evaluated and rejected for use as reliable surrogates for the missing umbo before discovering the use of the cardinal tooth. Measurements were taken from the cardinal tooth to the posterior edge (TPE) as a surrogate for the ligament length. Scatter plots of TPE vs. shell length suggested a significant linear relationship in each of the three populations, but each was population specific. Each ligament was examined to count the annuli and measure interannual growth. Power curves described the shell length to age relationship in two populations but interference created by the disruption in the growth rates at the third site resulted in a linear relationship. Histograms of the age estimates suggest that two of the populations fit a normal curve, while another is skewed toward younger mussels. Data collected in this work suggest that the TPE measurement can be used as a surrogate for ligament length, which allows the use of empty shells in making determinations about the age of freshwater mussels. This type of work may aid in our understanding of the species response of mussels to changes in the watershed, and specific disturbances that affect the fitness of mussels in the Pacific Northwest.

A FRESHWATER MUSSEL RELOCATION EXPERIMENT TO INVESTIGATE *MARGARITIFERA FALCATA* MORTALITY IN BEAR CREEK, WA, Arden C. Thomas¹, Carolyn F. Friedman², and Deborah Lester³. ¹College of Forest Resources, University of Washington, Box 352100, Seattle WA 98105. ²School for Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, Box 335020, Seattle WA 98105. ³King County, Water and Land Resources Division, 201 S Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104.

Bear Creek, in the Lake Washington drainage, historically supported extensive *Margaritifera falcata* beds. In recent years this mussel population has experienced a die-off. The cause of this mortality is not readily apparent since Bear Creek drains a watershed with relatively little urbanization. Microscopic examination of stained tissue sampled from Bear Creek mussels in 2004 revealed tissue morphological changes in the digestive gland and gill tissues. Whether these changes were due to an infectious or non-infectious disease is unknown. In order to study the mussel die-offs in Bear Creek, we initiated a sentinel study to address the following questions: 1) Do healthy freshwater mussels become diseased when relocated to Bear Creek? 2) Is an infectious agent responsible for any observed disease or mortality 3) Is there a sequence of pathological events that leads to mortality? 4) Do histological and physiological parameters provide an indication of stress? In November 2006 *M. falcata* mussels from the nearby, unaffected Cottage Lake Creek population were relocated to Bear Creek. Relocated mussels are being examined for changes in tissue morphology, glycogen levels, RNA production, gamete development, and survivorship. Initial histology and glycogen results from the first four months of monitoring will be presented. The aim of this study is to identify the onset of disease in the relocated mussels and increase understanding of the biological mechanism of mortality in the Bear Creek *M. falcata* population.

THE SILENCE OF THE CLAMS, G. Thomas Watters. Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, The Ohio State University, 1315 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, OH 43212.

North America's freshwater mussels are the most imperiled animals on the continent. Seventy percent are currently considered endangered, threatened, or species of special concern, and 37 species are presumed extinct. The overwhelming majority have been driven to this state by the activities of mankind. These anthropogenic causes include impoundment, runoff, mining, dredging, channelization, and loss of habitat for both mussel and host. These activities operate on both lethal and non-lethal levels. Non-lethal stress may interfere with feeding, metabolism, or decouple the host-mussel relationship. Effects on mussels from these sources are mainly a byproduct of the activity; the mussels are not themselves a target. However, other human activities have been aimed specifically at mussels. The pearl button industry, now essentially vanished, harvested thousands of tons of mussels, obliterating many beds and pushing species towards extinction. The current cultured pearl industry may be affecting mussels in the same way. The final nail in the coffin may be the invasive zebra mussel, which has decimated native mussels in many areas. For some species, human intervention in the form of captive propagation may be the only recourse to saving mussels from extinction.

USING WATERTYPE ASSESSMENTS TO PROTECT STREAMS, Jamie Glasgow. Wild Fish Conservancy, PO Box 402, Duvall, WA 98019.

Watertype assessments are an essential and cost-effective approach to protecting watersheds from negative impacts associated with adjacent land use. In Washington, forest practice activities and most local government critical areas ordinances base their streamside buffer width requirements on the presence or absence of fish habitat, as reflected by watertype. Existing regulatory watertype maps demonstrably under-represent the distribution of fish habitat. Many streams are mapped incorrectly or not at all. The Wild Fish Conservancy, through visual and electrofishing surveys, accurately maps channel locations and the distribution of fish, fish habitat, and freshwater mussels. Our projects also generate species-specific fish distribution and habitat quality data to assist with restoration project identification and prioritization efforts. The resulting GIS is used by state and local governments to update regulatory watertype maps and ultimately provide greater protection for streams.

STATUS OF WESTERN PEARLSHELL MUSSELS (MARGARITIFERA FALCATA) ON THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION, MONTANA, Daniel L. McGuire¹ and Dave Marshall². ¹McGuire Consulting, Kennewick, WA. ²Polson, MT.

Since 2001, we have documented the distribution, abundance and recruitment of western pearlshells on the Flathead Reservation. We conducted over 130 presence/absence surveys on 37 reservation streams. After locating mussels, population (density and size distribution) and habitat characteristics (substrate, channel, bank, and riparian) were evaluated in each mussel-bearing stream. Western pearlshells were once more numerous and widely distributed in valley streams on the Reservation. Mussels are still fairly abundant and reproducing in portions of 4 reservation streams and a few large individuals can be found widely scattered in

5 others. However, we found only shell fragments in several stream reaches. Water is extensively managed on the Flathead Reservation and most valley streams were severely degraded during the last century. Historic stream dewatering, excess sediment deposition and diminished trout populations are considered the primary factors impacting mussel populations. In recent decades stream flow, habitat, and trout populations have improved in many streams. Nevertheless, much of the former mussel habitat remains vacant. We found evidence of recent range expansion in only one stream. Colonization of suitable, but isolated, habitat may be hindered by small parent populations and low densities in some drainages. Alternatively, western pearlshell dispersal rates may be too slow for humans to appreciate. In the next year we will refine our field protocols and salvage mussels from a stream reach scheduled for dechannelization. As we learn more, we will consider “helping” mussels reestablish populations in what appears to be suitable habitat.

TWO DIVES IN 1984, TWO ROLLS EXPOSED, AND THE MUSSELS WERE SPAWNING, John C. Ratliff, 855 NW Winged Foot Terrace, Beaverton, OR 97006.

On May 28, 1984 I dove at the head of the Winchester Reservoir on the North Umpqua River, with my Nikonos II underwater camera with a macro ring attached. I planned to take macro “underwater photos of the mussels & small things.” My dive log reads, “After #10 (photo number), noticed that mussels were secreting white milky substance (sperm?). Rest of photos of this.” On June 3, 1984 I again went looking, and found, spawning mussels. This dive resulted in 21 more photos being taken. My presentation will be the first public showing of all these underwater macro photos of Western-River Pearl Mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*) spawning, taken from the original color negatives I shot in 1984. Other photos of the mussel beds in Winchester Reservoir, the North Umpqua River in the 1980s will also be presented, along with my observations as an underwater naturalist of some aquatic life in the North Umpqua. Conclusions include that the mussels spawned in the late afternoon, on warm days, when the water was close to 60 degrees, and that’s when spawning activity occurs for the Redside shiner (*Richardsonius balteatus* (Richardson), and the Umpqua pike minnow (*Ptychocheilus umpqua*), which are intermediate hosts to the mussel’s glochidia. Photos of these activities will be included if time permits.

STREAMLINED SURVEY TO DOCUMENT RELATIVE ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FRESHWATER MUSSELS IN WADEABLE STREAMS, Jake Jacobson and Thomas Coburn. Snohomish County, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201.

In the summers of 2003 through 2006 Snohomish County staff surveyed to document relative abundance and distribution of freshwater mussels in tributaries to the Stillaguamish River. Surveys were conducted during periods of low flows and high visibility, and reaches were selected for the following criteria; all were fish bearing, they were physical accessible, and we had landowner consent. A team of two walked upstream slowly while visually searching for mussels in all wetted areas of the streambed. The team carried a minimum of survey equipment that included a stadia rod, hip chain, handheld GPS and Aquascope. Other gear

included polarized glasses, hip boots, ziplock bags, camera, and field forms. The starting point of each survey was selected using a road crossing or other notable feature and included a lat/long reading when available. The hip chain was used to record distance from a known point. When a mussel was located, the stream was then carefully searched downstream one channel width and upstream up to 4 channel widths within the same habitat type for an estimate of the number of visible mussels, the hip chain reading was recorded on the data sheet along with stream width, depth, substrate type, and stream habitat type. Each mussel bed was then characterized into a size class, using 3 categories.; greater than 50 individuals, 10-50, and less than 10 individuals. All data was later incorporated into an ArcGis geodatabase with the mussel bed locations snapped to the stream layer. This provides for approximate bed locations and allows us to examine density distribution information.

EFFECTS OF SUCTION DREDGE MINING ON THE SHORT-TERM SURVIVAL OF FRESHWATER MUSSELS IN THE SIMILKAMEEN RIVER, WASHINGTON, Kirk L. Krueger, Patrick Chapman, Molly Hallock, and Timothy Quinn. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501.

Freshwater mussels are among the most imperiled taxonomic groups in North America. However, causes of mussel imperilment are often difficult to identify. Physical disturbance by suction dredge mining can affect the survival of aquatic organisms. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife protects freshwater mussels from the impacts of hydraulic projects, including mineral prospecting activities, but little information describing the effects of dredging on freshwater mussels is available to guide management.

We quantified the effects of entrainment, exposure, and burial by suction dredging on the short-term (6 weeks) survival of adult Western Pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*) and Western Ridge (*Gonidea angulata*) mussels in the Similkameen River, Washington in 2006. We exposed and buried mussels that were subjected to entrainment by a dredge and compared their survival to exposed and buried non-entrained mussels and to a control group. Entrainment and exposure resulted in no mussel mortality. Burial killed between 6 and 13 % of Pearlshell and Ridge mussels, respectively, and prevented all mussels from reorienting at the substrate surface. We compare our results with those of a pilot study we conducted in Mill Creek, Washington and with results reported in the literature. We suggest that the effects of dredging on mussel survival vary among locations and that precautionary management of mussels in Washington is warranted.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LOCALIZED DISTRIBUTION OF ADULT AND JUVENILE FRESHWATER MUSSELS (BIVALVIA: UNIONOIDEA), Brian Adair and James B. Layzer. Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, Tennessee Technological University, P.O. Box 5114, Cookeville, TN 38505.

Comparative studies on the ecology of adult and juvenile freshwater mussels are few. Because of their small size, juvenile mussels are difficult to locate, and even at sites where reproduction and recruitment appear to be strong, juveniles occur in low densities. For this project, the local distribution of freshwater mussels was studied at a site where recruitment

was occurring. Ten evenly-spaced parallel transects were established within a 90-meter reach of the Duck River in Marshall County, Tennessee. Along each transect, ten sampling points were marked at 2.7-m intervals. At each point, microhabitat variables were measured, and mussels were collected from three 0.25 m² quadrats randomly placed within the surrounding 2.25-m² area. Regression analysis indicated that both adult and juvenile mussel densities were related ($p < 0.05$) to shear stress (adult $R^2 = 0.58$; juvenile $R^2 = 0.50$). Adult density was also related to substrate roughness ($R^2 = 0.64$), while juvenile density was related to substrate permeability ($R^2 = 0.73$).

AGE AND GROWTH OF MARGARITIFERA FALCATA IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST - CLIMATE, GEOGRAPHY, AND LIFE HISTORY VARIABILITY, Bryan Black¹, Jason Dunham², Daniela Zima², and Mark Raggon². 1Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, OR. 2 U.S. Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Our objectives are to develop and validate methods for building freshwater mussel growth increment chronologies and relating those chronologies to the physical environment. These methods will be based on techniques developed by dendrochronologists, which have been applied on a diverse assemblage of tree species around the world and are now being used on other long-lived animal species (rockfish and marine bivalves) in the Pacific Northwest. Over the past year we have been working to thin-section >400 valves from western pearlshells (*Margaritifera falcata*) collected during summer of 2006. Our sampling includes sites representative of diverse environmental conditions across Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. From two sites we have multi-decadal time series of stream discharge and water temperatures for comparison against growth increments of mussels. With data on local or regional climate variability and increment chronologies in hand, we hope to address the following questions: 1) how well do growth increments in mussel valves relate to local stream discharge and temperature?, 2) what are patterns of synchrony in growth of mussels within and among streams, and how does this relate to broad scale environmental gradients in space and time?, 3) what are the fundamental factors influencing the maximum age of mussels in Pacific Northwest streams? We hope results of this work will have important implications for understanding the value of mussels indicators of environmental conditions in streams and also to contribute some basic information on age and growth of the species across the region. The latter should be useful for understanding the conservation status of mussels and for understanding basic processes influencing life histories and populations.

HUNTING MUSSELS IN EASTERN WASHINGTON, Bruce Lang, Retired, Eastern Washington University, Biology. 2301 S. Chestnut St., Spokane, WA 99224. Ph: 509-624-3203. blang@aimcomm.com

From 1967 to 2007 mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*, *Gonidea angulata*, and the *Anodonta spp.* complex) have been located in 40 sites. Site information was not from systematic studies but observations made during contract work on stream assessments, graduate thesis research, fishing, invertebrate course collections, and knocking around watersheds. Data reported are

from sites I have visited and mussels that I have handled (BZL). Sites are located in 22 different systems from the Paysaten and Similkameen rivers in the northwest to Pine Creek in the southeast. Since 1967 mussel beds have been reduced or disappeared from sites on the Little Spokane River, the Spokane River, Sherman Creek, Sanpoil River, Pine Creek, Curlew Lake, and Latah (Hangman) Creek. While many mussel beds apparently disappeared, individual mussels are still found in some of these areas. In other systems, upper Crab Creek (*Anodonta*), Latah Creek (*Anodonta*, *Gonidea*), and the Little Pend Oreille River (*Margaritifera*), mussel beds are still present.

A contract study (WDFW-53081050) on Curlew Lake (1998) demonstrated *A. californiensis* (?) shells and live mussels. Electrofishing caught 146 fish (Northern Pike Minnow, Rainbow Trout, Chiselmouth, and Largemouth Bass). Most of these (96) were necropsied in the laboratory for glochidia on fins and gills. Infestation rates: NPM=48.8%; RB=33.3%; CM=40%; LMB=0.0%). Observational and experimental work conducted with three live mussels from Curlew Lake in May, 1998, showed egg production on 5/19, followed by glochidia release on 6/5. In an uncontrolled trial, a clam shedding glochidia was placed with small bass (5.5-8.5cm, from Curlew Lake) in a large tank. Two of 9 were infected. In June more live clams were collected, shed glochidia, and infestations were produced in hatchery raised RB(7/20 infected) and LMB(2/15 infected).

Note: The speaker, Bruce Lang, was unable to present his talk due to a conflict in schedule.

TECHNICAL POSTERS

“Astoria High School Freshwater Mussel Projects”

Lee Cain, Astoria High School, OR

“Monitoring Mussel Index Plots in Pacific Northwest Watersheds”

Nancy Duncan, Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg, OR

“Margaritifera falcata Reproduction in Bear Creek, King County – a Pilot Study”

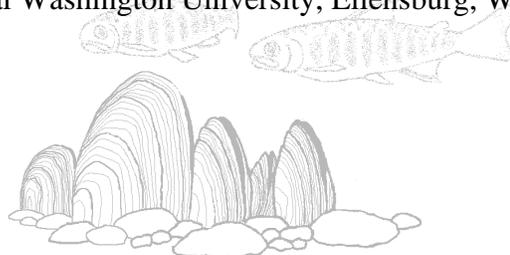
Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy, Olympia, WA

“Molecular Diagnostic Systems to Study the Ecology of Native and Invasive Mussels”

Rusty Rodriguez, United States Geological Survey, Seattle, WA

“Survey for Freshwater Mussels in the Upper Yakima River: an Interactive Poster”

Allen Sullivan, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA



POSTER ABSTRACTS

(in alphabetical order)

ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL FRESHWATER MUSSEL PROJECTS, Lee Cain, Astoria High School, 1001 West Marine Drive, Astoria OR 97103.

Distribution and abundance of freshwater mussels in Clatsop County

Each year the AHS Fisheries Technology class will survey a new stream in the county for freshwater mussels. This spring (2007), students in the class will be teaming to map the distribution and abundance of freshwater mussels in the above-tidal reaches of the Walluski River, a stream emptying into Youngs Bay. Mussel beds will be located using visual surveys with plexiglass-bottomed buckets. Mussel beds will be located and mapped for: percent composition substrate, depth, average mussel density and average age by ring count. [Jake Banta, Tom Jaworski, Justin Litwin, Alex Ferber, Mathias Brause, Brendan Landwehr, Kyle Harrington]

Salinity tolerance of western pearlshell mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*).

Streams in the western half of Clatsop County are tidal in their lower reaches. Many of these streams flow from separate headwater sources yet have corresponding populations of western pearlshell mussels. Two students in the Fisheries Technology class will expose small groups of mussels to gradually increasing salinities in recirculating aquaria in an attempt to determine the LD₅₀ salinity tolerance of western pearlshells. It is hoped that this study will shed light on the capacity of *M. falcata* to migrate between drainages. [Jake Banta, Tom Jaworski]

Effects of zinc chloride and copper chloride on the general health of western pearlshell mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*).

Freshwater mussels are known to be sensitive to industrial pollutants. Two students in the AHS Fisheries Technology class will expose small groups of mussels in recirculating aquaria to serial dilutions of zinc and copper chloride in an attempt to determine the LD₅₀ of western pearlshells. [Justin Litwin, Alex Ferber]

MONITORING MUSSEL INDEX PLOTS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST WATERSHEDS, Nancy L. Duncan. Bureau of Land Management, 777 Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, OR 97470.

The Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup in cooperation with The Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership is initiating the monitoring of Mussel Index Plots in selected watersheds in order to develop a baseline for mussel population demographics across the Northwest region. Local non-profit groups, state and federal agencies and other groups interested in adopting a plot are asked to sign up for a watershed that they will then monitor over several years to determine trends in abundance and size class distributions of mussel species encountered. Final Mussel Index Plot locations in target watersheds will be determined following preliminary inventory surveys which will establish occurrence and relative abundance for these species. Survey protocols have been drafted for use in federal agencies which can be used in this effort to provide consistent data quality and standardized

methods. Members of the FWMG workgroup and others are available to train surveyors and provide expertise in identification and collection practices. Experiences in conducting such monitoring in the Umpqua Basin of Douglas County, Oregon will be presented as an example of techniques and tools used.

MARGARITIFERA FALCATA REPRODUCTION IN BEAR CREEK, KING COUNTY – A PILOT STUDY, Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy, PO Box 402, Duvall, WA 98019.

A significant data gap regarding *M. falcata* reproduction is the ambiguity of its preferred host and population-specific timing of host infection. In May, 2006, Wild Fish Conservancy deployed two underwater time-lapse video cameras on two different groups of mature *M. falcata* in upper Bear Creek, King County. Each camera recorded for approximately ten seconds every six minutes for 24 hours. The footage was reviewed to identify fish species in the vicinity of the mature mussels, document any fish-mussel interactions, and document any release of glochidia by the mature mussels.

Bear Creek supports chinook, coho, sockeye, rainbow/steelhead, and cutthroat trout, as well as a variety of native non-salmonid fishes (primarily *Cottidae* and *Cyprinidae*). Close review of the May 2006 video footage confirms the presence of juvenile coho, and juvenile rainbow or cutthroat trout maintaining feeding positions in the immediate vicinity (within two inches) of each of the two groups of mussels monitored. Juvenile and adult sculpin, and juvenile sucker fish, were also observed in the footage but did not appear to associate with the mussels. No fish were observed to come in contact with the mussels, and no glochidia releases were observed.

This pilot study demonstrated that the underwater video monitoring approach is a useful and practical tool to attempt to document freshwater mussel and host-fish species interactions. With more study sites and longer recording periods (2-3 days per week for several weeks during the expected glochidia release), we are confident that this approach would allow us to identify the host fish species and better understand the timing and mechanism of *falcata* glochidia release.

MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEMS TO STUDY THE ECOLOGY OF NATIVE AND INVASIVE MUSSELS, Rusty Rodriguez^{1,2} and Marshal Hoy^{1,2}. 1 U.S. Geological Survey, WFRC, 6506 NE 65th, Seattle WA, 98115. 2 University of Washington, Biology, Seattle WA 98195.

We have developed species-specific molecular diagnostic systems to discriminate native and invasive mussels in the PNW. The system is based on development of PCR primers that amplify rDNA ITS and 28s gene sequences from DNA extracted from representing any life history stage. Currently, we have developed species-specific primers for one native (Western Pearlshell, *Margaritifera falcate*) and two invasive species (Zebra mussel, *Dreissena polymorpha* and Quagga mussel, *D. burgensis*). This limited number of species-specific systems developed so far reflects samples we have been able to obtain thus far. We are pursuing additional samples that represent the remaining PNW species and can expand these

efforts to include non-PNW species. These molecular systems represent the initial stages of developing automated systems to monitor the introduction of *Dreissena* species and to study the ecology of both native and invasive species in aquatic ecosystems.

SURVEY FOR FRESHWATER MUSSELS IN THE UPPER YAKIMA RIVER: AN INTERACTIVE POSTER. Allen E. Sullivan, Gretchen Volker. Central Washington University, Department of Geography and Land Studies, 400 East University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926.

Little is known regarding the presence and abundance of freshwater mussels in the upper Yakima River (Roza Dam to Lake Keechelus). The upper Yakima River is highly managed, with early-spring through early-autumn flows maintained at high and relatively uniform levels as reservoirs release water to provide irrigation to the lower Yakima Valley. Flows drop at the end of irrigation season, making late-autumn through winter the optimum time to survey for mussels. A survey has commenced on this portion of the river, but has experienced several unanticipated obstacles related to a lack of knowledge of potential mussel bed sites, river access, ice, fluctuating flow levels, turbidity, and inclement weather, all of which have functioned to limit sampling. To facilitate and guide the initial survey, efforts have been made to interview fly-fishing guides, Washington State and Yakama Nation fisheries biologists, and other individuals with potential knowledge of mussel bed locations. The locations of mussel beds provided by interviewees have been mapped and are serving as focus areas for surveying. A raft has been employed to increase and speed access to survey areas, and reduce surveyor exposure to low temperatures, thereby increasing survey efficiency. To date, six mussel sites have been identified in the upper Yakima River, all with Western pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*). The goal of this poster is to increase awareness of freshwater mussels in the Yakima River, and to encourage interactive participation in the survey. Symposium participants are requested to review the map presented in this poster, and to add, or verify, mussel bed locations based on their personal experience.

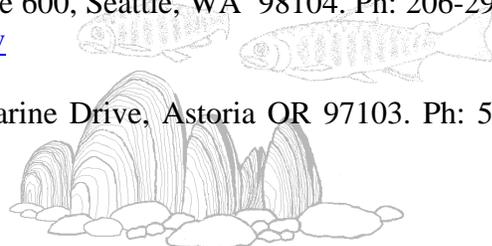
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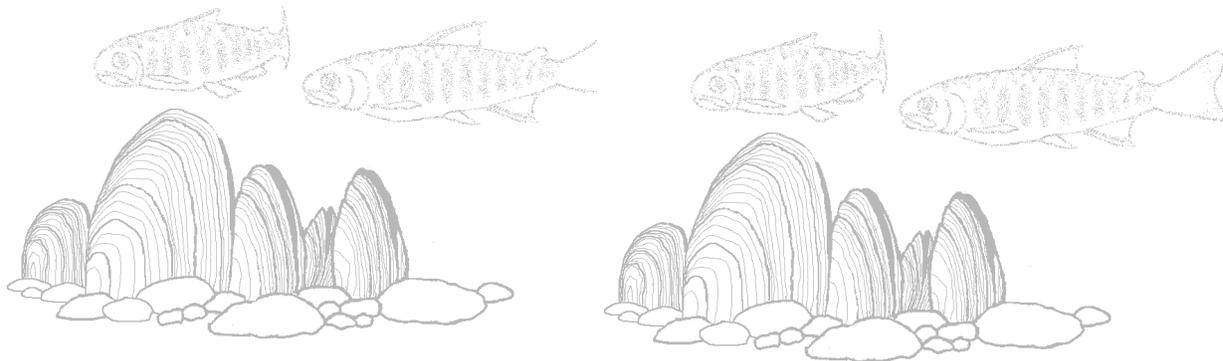
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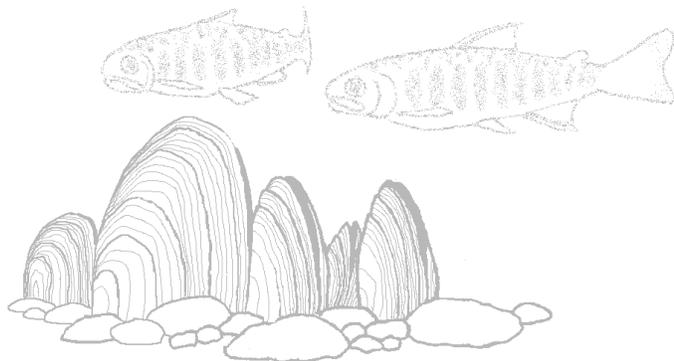
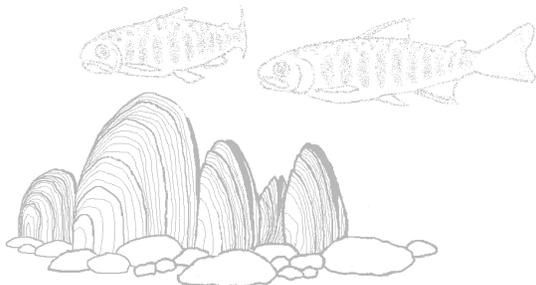
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4/05/07

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