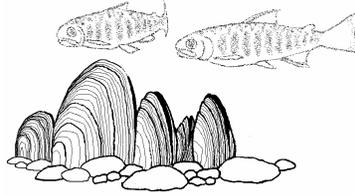


Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup



Minutes for Mussel workgroup meeting
Tuesday December 8, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Columbia River Fisheries Program Office, Vancouver, WA

Participants: John Fleckenstein, Molly Hallock, Sarina Jepsen, Jeff Jolley, Al Smith, Shelly Miller, Larry Zuckerman

Agenda Items

10:00 Invasive mollusk presentation and discussion – *Robyn Draheim, Portland State*

Robyn Draheim, PSU, gave an interesting presentation on New Zealand mud snails. The presentation included info on life history traits, identification, mechanism of spread, likely or known impacts, prevention and removal. She also discussed a few other molluscan invaders. The pdf of her presentation has been distributed via the listserv.

11:00 Results of study of sculpin as host for *M. falcata* – *Jeff Jolley*
Jeff talked about the results of the study to evaluate the likelihood of sculpin as hosts for *M. falcata*. He reported that there were problems keeping the sculpin alive. There was no evidence that sculpin acted as hosts. Jeff is prepared to repeat the study with a positive control (cutthroat trout or other known host) if money becomes available.

11:30 Symposium in 2010 – if, when, where, why, and how? – *Shelly Miller and all*

The group discussed the feasibility of putting on a symposium in 2010. It was tentatively decided that it would not be pursued due to the following reasons: 1) the state of the research: there may not be much new to report; 2) time involved: getting a symposium together is time consuming and after much footwork last year, the symposium was cancelled due to a lack of committed speakers; and 3) given the current economy, it may be difficult for interested participants to attend.

One thing the group discussed was the need for more outreach to agencies, watershed councils, teachers, etc. We decided to have a more in-depth discussion of the workgroup's role in outreach at a future meeting.

12 noon Lunch

Brief updates

1:00 Revised mussel guide and distribution/sale – *Sarina Jepsen*

Mussel guides have been selling. However, Sarina did not have exact numbers.

Relocation guidelines outreach – *Shelly Miller, Sarina Jepsen, others*
Shelly, Sarina, Molly, and others have distributed the guidelines within their agencies and beyond. Folks should continue to look for opportunities to further distribute the document. It is available on the workgroup web site and Xerces web site.

Follow up on Salmon spawning surveyors/ mussel injuries – *Al Smith and Shelly Miller*

Al and Shelly will be working with staff doing training at ODFW for all staff and seasonal performing salmon spawning surveys. Others in the group are going to check into similar opportunities in their states.

Xerces status review update – *Sarina Jepsen*

The status review is nearing completion. It is likely to be complete in January. Sarina has been waiting to share the entire document when complete. However, if anyone is interested in parts of the review or database, they should contact her. Sarina also expressed some concern/frustration with the state of the taxonomy of the western *Anodonta* and the Endangered Species Act. Because of the conditions described in the ESA, invertebrates are only listed at the species level (not DPS or populations). Therefore, until the uncertainty of the western anodontids is cleared up, no listings can be pursued. Sarina (and others) believe that while the mussels in the Pacific Northwest are pretty secure, mussels in the Southwest have experienced severe declines and are only present in low numbers and in a few locations. Listing could likely be justified and help protect them from further declines and provide funding for restoration efforts.

Black carp/ Zebra mussel control follow up – *Sarina Jepsen*

Shelly will take it over and work with Sarina and the rest of the group to edit the document.

Critical needs document follow up – *Sarina Jepsen and Brian Adair*

Shelly will follow-up with Brian.

New workgroup/listserv members – *Sarina Jepsen*

There is one new member. An individual that works with the Freshwater Trust.

1:30 Outreach/sampling efforts -- All

Al gave a well-received presentation to the Oregon Society of Conchologists. His presentation was also covered in their December newsletter. Shelly wrote two articles about freshwater mussels for FishWorks, a newsletter that goes out to staff and volunteers working under the ODFW Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program and the Restoration and Enhancement Program. In 2010, Donna Allard (USFWS) will be monitoring mussels at Deer Island in the Columbia River. Al will be working with Linda Beck (Malheur NWR) to search for mussels in the Blitzen River.

2:00 Schedule next meeting

The next meeting will be March 9th at the Columbia River Fisheries Office in Vancouver, Washington.