

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
(revised May 16, 2012)

QUALIFIED MUSSEL SURVEYORS

The following list includes persons known by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to have the skills and experience to search for and successfully find freshwater mussels and their habitat. Any individuals handling or conducting surveys for endangered mussels must first obtain from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission a Scientific Collector's Permit, and a Special Permit to survey for endangered and threatened species pursuant to 58 PA Code 75.4. All permitted collector's encounters with endangered mussels must be reported in writing to the PFBC and USFWS within 48 hours.

Contracted mussel surveys and research will be overseen by a qualified surveyor, who will be present in the field at all times during the investigation. Qualified surveyors are the individuals who act in the capacity of Principal Investigator (PI), having in-field oversight responsibility for surveys, mussel identification, and safe handling procedures. The qualified mussel surveyor is the one responsible for correctly identifying mussels to species. The qualified mussel surveyor is also the one responsible for carrying out the actual in-stream searches (surveys) for mussels and the one responsible for conducting in-stream quality-assurance checks on at least 10% of the survey area searched by assistants who are not qualified mussel surveyors. In addition, qualified mussel surveyors will ensure 1) they and their assistants have the appropriate permits to conduct mussel survey work, including work with endangered mussels; 2) surveys are carried out in accordance with USFWS-approved survey protocols; and 3) reports are accurate and complete and submitted to the appropriate agencies. A failure to carry out the above responsibilities may result in one's removal from the list of qualified surveyors due to the inherent risks to endangered mussels.

This information is not to be construed as an endorsement of individuals or firms by the USFWS, or any of their employees. Persons not on this list, but who have documented experience in conducting scientific studies of, or successful searches for, freshwater mussels and their habitat may submit their qualifications to the USFWS for review. The submission must include documentation that the requestor has experience successfully locating and identifying freshwater mussel habitats, and successfully locating and identifying freshwater mussel species (including federal-status mussel species) in their river and stream habitat. The submission must also include documentation of the requestor field experience with endangered mussel species in the river drainage in which he/she intends to conduct survey work. Additions to and deletions from this list are at the sole discretion of the USFWS. This list is subject to revision at any time without prior notice.

Susquehanna, Delaware and Potomac River Drainages

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