

# ACF Info Exchange



## FWC's Mussel Monitoring Program in the Apalachicola Basin

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# Re-organization of Mussel Program

- Recently split and moved to the Blackwater Office
- Hiring new coordinator to be based in Gainesville
- Hiring new assistant biologist at Blackwater
- Blackwater Office soon to move to Garcon Point

# Monitoring Apalachicola Mussels

- A bit of a different beast
- Upper Chipola vs. Apalachicola River
  - River morphology
  - Ongoing efforts
- Some static and some “random” sites
- Collaborative effort utilizing SCUBA in main stem



# “Random” Coverage Sites

- Watershed coverage
  - 126 surveys to date
  - Various habitats
- Designed for Occupancy-Detection analysis
  - Surveyors not overlapping
  - Catches kept/enumerated separately
  - 0.5 or 1 person hour
- Habitat at a subset
  - Depth, flow, substrate



# Static Sites – coming soon!

- 15 Quadrats/site
  - Problematic
  - Depth, flow, habitat
  - Recruitment
- Time searches
  - Searchers not overlapping
  - Catches kept separate
- General water chemistry
- Roll into FWS dive monitoring?



# Moving Forward

- On the river annually
- More than willing to help out
  - Boat support
  - Man power
- Incorporation of FWS habitat/dive work at static sites
  - Rotational basis every 2-3 years



# Questions?

