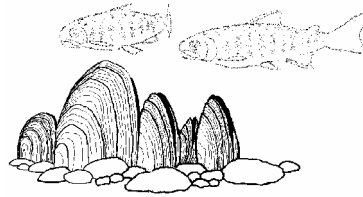


## Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup



May 27, 2004

*Minutes*

Attendees were as follows: Al Smith, Dick Schaetzel\*, Jamie Glasgow, Molly Hallock, Wendy Walsh, Kevin Aitkin, Jen Stone, Kathy Thornburg, Doug Weber\*. Micah Wait replaced Jamie at noon. There were no parties on the conference call. \*Indicates invited guest.

Al Smith opened the meeting by initiating introductions from attendees and asking for additions or changes to the agenda.

2004 Symposium: Jen Stone sought comments from the Workgroup regarding the 2004 Symposium. Al suggested having a little looser schedule for the 2005 Symposium to allow more time for speaker introductions. The group enjoyed the 15 minutes for questions after each keynote speaker's presentation. Kathy suggested that we find speakers that better address the audience (i.e. the taxonomy talk was over many people's heads).

2005 Symposium: The Workgroup needs to start planning for the 2005 Symposium. Kevin Aitkin is working on finding a suitable location near Olympia. So far, Evergreen College and Capitol Campus are potential options to explore. Kevin reminded the group that in 2006 the National Malacological Society will be having their meeting in Seattle, and it would be nice for our group to have our meeting in association with this one. Funding the 2005 Symposium: Kathy Thornburg will look into the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, Water Tenders will be able to offer some assistance, and Molly will pursue a grant through the Plum Creek Foundation. Additionally, Jen Stone and David Wolf have already written a proposal to the Port of Portland, and will hear by June 1, 2004 if their proposal will be funded. It is likely that if this proposal is funded, the Symposium will need to be held closer to Portland. Jen reviewed her expectations of the 2005 Symposium: she would like to have a keynote speaker from the east coast or even Europe give an opening inspirational speech, followed by a series of mini-workshops designed to teach the audience a specific skill (surveying protocol, species identification, aging, etc). The Symposium will conclude with a few updates on local research and additional local presentations. The Workgroup was in favor of this design. Wendy will get in touch with Kelly Toy to see if Kelly can contact the person who taught her how to age mussels. The Workgroup suggested asking Mike Salazar if he would be interested in teaching the audience how to conduct caged mussel studies. A suggestion was made to start off the symposium with a talk on the critical needs of northwest mussels. Wendy would like to have Michelle Steg present her work on conducting mussel surveys in lieu of fish surveys and would like to have Jeannette Howard talk about her nutrient/trophic level work. Jamie suggested asking the state and federal biologists give a policy presentation on what the agencies are doing for

mussels, the role of protection laws, the status of Kelly Toy's petition, etc. (Update on Kelly's petition: no action to date but the state did close harvest of freshwater bivalves).

Critical Needs and Uncertainties: Al Smith led the discussion on developing a list of critical needs and uncertainties of mussels. This issue was last discussed in December. Al read through the previous minutes and generated a draft list. Rob Plotnikoff was going to put something together about how the group would use this list, but this task should be assigned to someone else (no one was assigned). The group generated a draft list of Critical Needs and Uncertainties:

Distribution, Status, and Trends  
Cause/effect analysis  
Historic data  
Systematics/taxonomy  
Ecology  
Environmental requirements  
Host fish species and distribution  
Population structure  
Recruitment  
Life history studies  
Education

Members of the Workgroup are asked to review this list and get comments back to Jen.

Goals and Objectives: The group adopted the goals and objectives without making any additional changes.

Workgroup Membership: The process for making additions, deletions, and the overall structure of the Workgroup has been discussed before without resolution. After the 2004 Symposium, several new people asked to join the Workgroup. The Workgroup must develop a process to keep the Workgroup small and functional. The Workgroup decided on the following process:

1. Interested parties are expected to formally ask for admittance onto the Workgroup by writing a member a memo, which would include their name, organization, interests, and expertise.
2. This memo will be read aloud during the next meeting of the Workgroup and the Workgroup will vote, striving for a consensus decision.
3. If the interested party is voted in, a member of the Workgroup will be assigned to contact the party and formally invite them onto the Workgroup.

The group voted that two new members be invited onto the workgroup (people that had already written a formal request): Cynthia Tate from Oregon BLM and Brent Vadopalas from University of Washington. Jen will get in touch with both parties and formally invite them onto the workgroup. Requirements of membership were discussed and the group decided that if a Workgroup member missed two of the four scheduled meetings during the calendar year, they would be moved off the Workgroup and onto a general mailing list where they will continue to

receive general information but will not serve as a Workgroup member. (As a reminder, Workgroup members can attend meetings in person, via proxy, or via conference call.) The vacant Workgroup slot will be filled as new requests come in, attempting to keep the Workgroup at 20 members. Additionally, the Workgroup discussed the possibility of forming small ad-hoc committees containing members and non-members and having invited guests at the Workgroup meetings when specific needs/expertise are required.

Name change: There was a suggestion to drop “Pacific” from the Workgroup name to allow for representation of states such as Montana, Utah, and Nevada. Kevin will determine the true meaning of the word “Pacific” and get back to the group. Until then, the group decided not to change the name.

Brochure: Dick Schaezel discussed Water Tender’s need for a Mussel Identification brochure. These will be handed out to the Salmon Watchers, along with data cards, to collect information on freshwater mussels in conjunction with their salmon surveys. These brochures need to go to the printer by June 9<sup>th</sup> to obtain a discount on printing costs. Jen provided Dick with a draft brochure as a jumping-off point. The Workgroup suggested adding the King County mussel website, collection regulations, a picture of corbicula, and definitions of mussel anatomy. Additionally the group suggested simplifying the document to include only Margartifera, Anondonta spp., Gonidea, and corbicula with more general species descriptions. Jen will send Dick the powerpoint file and the Workgroup will be able to assist in answering technical questions. Molly will send the legal information to Wendy, who will pass it along to Dick.

Field guide: There is a need for a field guide to freshwater mussels in this region. Ethan Nedeau of BioDRAWersity has developed one for Connecticut and Maine, and the Workgroup would like to find funding for him to produce one for us. This guide would include all bivalves west of the Rocky Mountains and would be called “A Field Guide to the Freshwater Mussels of the Pacific Drainages”. Water Tenders has allocated \$1250 to this effort to leverage further funding. This money needs to be spent by late spring of 2005. Kathy will pursue the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, Jen will pursue Metro Greenspaces funding (in conjunction with WSU teacher-ed workshop), and Molly will pursue Plum Creek Foundation. Micah will talk to King County to see if there would be any interest in supporting this effort, and Jen will talk to Clark County. Jen encouraged the rest of the members to seek out additional funding. Kevin suggested that Jen should email the entire mussel-interest list-serve with a request for funding, and Jen will do so. All proposals should include the online version of the Connecticut Guide as an example. In this field guide the Workgroup would like to see photos of shells, live mussels, and underwater shots, and would like to have an online component (our webmaster might be able to do this). Ethan Nedeau is interested in working with us (under contract) but is busy until October 2004. Any funding received will have to be diverted to a non-profit agency (i.e the non-profit will submit all grants) and the non-profit will pay Ethan for his services. Ethan mentioned to Al that photos of high resolution are acceptable. He also suggested including range maps, but the group felt that these data were not available and that a simple paragraph explaining what we know might be more appropriate.

General discussion: Micah reported briefly on the results of the caged mussel study and will provide the Workgroup with a final report when it is ready. One observation he made was

that the healthy populations of mussels tested had a high concentration of benzoic acid and a few heavy metals. 10 sites were used, 3 mussels per site (one site was lost due to high flow).

Wendy said that Kelly Toy is trying to get Tom Watters back out here for another lecture in conjunction with the shellfish conference in Tacoma that will take place in October—possibly coordinating this with U. Washington (to drum up interest in the biology department). Wendy will pursue this. Kevin will see if the National Marine Fisheries Service at Montlake would be interested as well.

Chehalis field trip: Kevin was contacted by David Mudd (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). He has property on the Chehalis River and has observed Margaritifera under tidal conditions. Kevin presented this information to Jayne Brim Box, who found it interesting, and the Workgroup has decided to pursue a field trip to observe this species in this unique environment. Kevin will organize this field trip and will provide dates/tide tables at a later date.

Xerces Society: Wendy sent mussel information to Bob Pyle of the Xerces Society to see if they would be interested in writing an issue on freshwater mussels. Al is a member of the Xerces Society and will also contact the Xerces Society. Kevin mentioned a similar article that was written by Washington Trout several years ago, and he will provide the source information and Micah will attempt to find an electronic copy to send to the Workgroup.

Meeting Adjourned