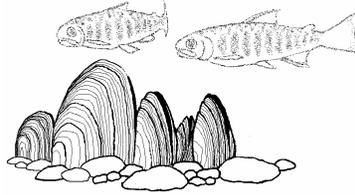


Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup



Minutes for Mussel workgroup meeting
Tuesday September 8, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Columbia River Fisheries Program Office, Vancouver, WA

Participants: Al Smith, Jeff Jolley, Sarina Jepsen, Shelly Miller, Brian Adair, Larry Zuckerman, Tom Burke, Rob Plotnikoff, David Kennedy, Molly Hallock

Agenda Items

10:00 Mussel surveys in Nevada, Idaho and California – *Al Smith*
Al reported on the results of his surveys in NV and CA. He did not get into Idaho. He had previously found no live mussels in Nevada but at McDermitt Creek, his first stop, he found a live California floater and two freshly predated shells. He had previously found live California floaters in the same creek but in Oregon. McDermitt Creek was treated with rotenone in early August but the lack of dead mussels indicates that the rotenone did not kill mussels. He also found a live California floater each in South Fork Humboldt River and Tenmile Creek, a tributary, near Elko. Humboldt River, at 300 miles, is the longest river in the Great Basin. He looked at 8 sites in Nevada and found live mussels at the three mentioned and shells at two additional sites. Al is leaving for California tomorrow (Sacramento, Klamath basins).

Other sampling events: W. pearlshells found in Tualatin NWR.

There was a brief discussion of rotenone and possible human impacts that were previously unknown

10:25 Xerces status review – *Sarina Jepsen*
Sarina presented “in progress” draft maps for status review. Distribution presented by 8-digit HUC, categorized into one of three categories: prior to 2000, 2000 to present, and pre- and post-2000. Xerces may use this info to identify species for which to pursue additional state or federal protection. Noted that the ESA indicates that invertebrates cannot be listed by DPS (distinct population segment). Database currently holds 3600 records.

10:45 Relocation guidelines and outreach – *Shelly Miller and Sarina Jepsen*
Shelly and Sarina requested approval from the group to finalize the guidelines and begin to distribute to appropriate organizations. The work group agreed and identified some of the following as appropriate folks for distribution: State offices and biologists; USFS, BLM. USACOE, DOT, tribal biologists, CRITFIC

11:05 Revised mussel guide and distribution/sale – *Sarina Jepsen*
Now available for sale on the Xerces web site (\$8) and available for free as a pdf. Sarina will send link to Unio listserv. Xerces has approximately 3,000 hits/month on their web site. Folks can advertise as they can and see fit.

11:20 Mussel translocation projects – *Molly Hallock*
Elwha's dam removal: discovered a large population of *M. falcata*, there may have been some die-offs

Cedar River (Walsh Lake): diversion made ~80 years ago, upon dewatering, discovered 1,000's of *M. falcata*; Molly and Sarah Prince tried to save some by moving them to an adjacent stream, but they haven't been back to check on mortality. There were many different sizes. It would be good to age them.

Willapa Bay update: *Brian Adair*
Could not determine if sculpin were hosts for *M. falcata*, had problems keeping them alive; will look at other species. Suggested inviting Marie Fernandez to give update on Willapa NWR at next work group meeting; a new stream is receiving mussels.

11:30 Columbia Slough study update – *David Kennedy*
Finished project looking at non-tidal portion of Columbia Slough; found 3 species: oregonensis, californiensis, nuttalliana; established volunteer protocol to develop baseline data. His thesis will be available as a PDF. David will distribute. Is still working out volunteer protocol (grant from OWEB). *M. falcata* found in Johnson Creek.

Brief updates

Follow up on salmon spawning surveyors/ mussel injuries – *Al Smith*
Al and Shelly will work to develop a handout and possibly training for project leaders and staff and distribute mussel guides.

Black carp/ Zebra mussel control follow up – *Sarina Jepsen*
A proposal was made to introduce black carp to quagga/zebra mussel habitats in California. Brian was at the regional quagga mussel meeting with many managers; intro of black carp was on the agenda, overwhelmingly against introducing exotic predators; thought that sending a letter would be helpful. Sarina will work on.

Critical needs document follow up – *Sarina Jepsen*
Sarina proposed getting approval from the group to finalize it and distribute. Possible publication in Journal of Molluscan Studies. Brian would like to make a few edits and then will distribute.

Change in chair to Shelly Miller – *Sarina Jepsen*

New workgroup/listserv members – *Sarina Jepsen*
Three people have joined listserv: Jeff Jolley (USFWS), Guy Martel (BC Hydro), and Kelly (U of Idaho). Approx. 60 members.

Terry Myers-Arizona mussels- should be invited to join

National status review from AFS should be coming soon.

Next meeting

12/8, 10AM, Vancouver USFWS Columbia River Fisheries office

Possible agenda item: use of mussels as biofilters for propagation projects.