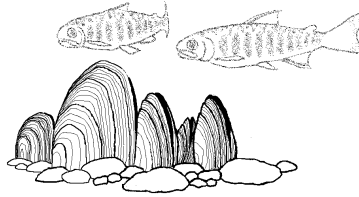


# *Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup*



September 12, 2007

## *Minutes*

Attendees were as follows: Al Smith, Christina Luzier, Sarina Jepsen, Brian Adair, Molly Hallock, Tom Burke, John Fleckenstein, Kevin Aitkin, and Shelly Miller. Rob Plotnikoff and Nancy Duncan were on the conference line.

**Purpose:** This was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Workgroup.

**Workgroup Chairperson Search:** Sarina Jepsen has accepted the position of workgroup chairperson during Al's hiatus to plan the Western Division AFS mussel symposium. Yeah Sarina!

**Presentation for WALPA:** Rob Plotnikoff is giving a presentation to WALPA on October 18<sup>th</sup>. He is going to use the general powerpoint presentation developed by the workgroup but would like the group's input on its current content and potential revisions. He solicited ideas of new content that would be specifically appropriate for the WALPA audience. Some ideas were: host fish specificity, habitat issues "good for salmon, good for mussels", StreamNet, water quality, lake outlets (nutrients, oxygen demand, reproduction). The group revised the presentation during the meeting and Rob used the new version as a base for his talk.

**Membership Growth:** The group agreed again that we should not limit membership. We decided to create a list serve so that every member of the group could send messages, articles, etc. to the whole workgroup membership. A second list serve may be created to include the mussel contact list (comprising ~300 names of people who are interested in mussel issues and/or have attended past symposia). Sarina is going to create the list serve as a Google group.

**Western AFS Meeting:** Al gave an update on his plans for the mollusk session at the meeting in May 2008. The speakers lined up so far include: Karen Mock, Deb Lester, Arden Thomas, Kirk Krueger, Cynthia Tait, and Jayne Brim Box. He is waiting for a reply from Terry Frest and Jason Dunham. He had recruited four Quagga mussel speakers (Kevin Kelley, Sandee Dingman, Bob McMahan and David Britton) but they have since been switched to the invasive species session. The meeting will have six concurrent sessions and between 600 and 800 attendees.

**Xerces Affiliation:** The affiliation is officially in place. We will transfer the \$967.95 leftover from symposium funds to Xerces. Jake Jacobson is going to write the check from SERNW to Xerces. Since we have money left over it will be important to keep track of which sponsor's

money is left so we can acknowledge them on the next symposium or in the guidebook reprint. Christina has records on what sponsorship money has been used completely and what is left over.

**Mussel Guide Reprinting:** Now that the Xerces affiliation is in place we will move forward with the mussel guide reprint. We have very few guides left. Only an editorial revision will be done. It may be harder to get sponsors for the reprint versus an original publication. Some potential sponsors are: WALPA, ODFW, Jen Stone's new employer, EPA, Water Tenders, USFWS, and the Mountaineers Foundation. Scott Black has much experience with soliciting sponsorship money and he probably has good ideas for the mussel guide. We need to inquire about the copyright that is currently held by WaterTenders (Dick Schatzel).

**Critical Needs Document:** It was identified as an important guide to direct research and funding. The group still thinks it is important and worth finishing. We currently have two versions. Sarina will send out both (and the lamprey critical uncertainties document for comparison) to the group for comments. Brian Adair will facilitate the editing process. Deadline for sending comments to Brian is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Mussel Surveys on the Sprague:** Al and Michelle Steg did surveys on this Klamath basin river. At an elevation of 3000 ft. it has a mostly gravel bottom and many cattle. Where there were little pockets of sediment they found Oregon floaters. Ten miles downstream (near the town of Beatty), they found OR floaters and *G. angulata* including small individuals. In the lower Sprague River (near the town of Chiloquin), in rocky habitat, Al found *G. angulata*. In California on the Pit River Al also found *G. angulata*.

**ODFW Relicensing Project:** ODFW is asking for mussel surveys to be conducted on Fall Creek, a trib of the middlefork Willamette, as part of the relicensing process for a hydroelectric project.

**Condit Dam:** Christina Luzier's office (USFWS) is doing lamprey (primarily) and mussel surveys on the White Salmon River basin. They have surveyed Trout Lake Creek, Buck Creek, the lower section of Rattlesnake Creek, the mainstem White Salmon below Condit Dam and Northwestern Lake. Lampreys were found on the lower reaches of Trout Lake Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, the mainstem and Northwestern Lake. Western Pearlshell mussels were found on the lower reaches of Rattlesnake Creek only.

**Willapa Refuge Mussel Restoration Work:** Molly Hallock reported that WDFW approved the permits for the transport and relocation of mussels on Willapa Refuge. They will be doing the relocation in September. Kevin voiced concern regarding whether this will be a precedent for future mussel relocation proposals.

**Mussel Tissue Collection for Genetic Work:** Karen Mock is soliciting mussel tissue for her genetic study. Molly did the following surveys and provided her with tissue: 1) Mason Lake – 30 Anodontas; 2) Chehalis River – 30 Anodontas, Gonidea and Margaritifera; 3) Mill Creek – Margaritifera; 4) Kettle River - Margaritifera; 5) Lords Creek – Anodontas.

**Surveys on the Stillagumish River:** Jake Jacobson reported that “Snohomish County continued its ongoing surveys to determine presence/absence and relative abundance in tributaries of the Stillagumish River. We surveyed four different streams, a total of 6440 linear feet, but sadly found no mussels. To date we have walked 49,560 feet (9.39 miles) determining mussel location and relative abundance in streams in Snohomish County.”

“In addition to our prior work, we also collected freshwater mussels for genetic analysis. We sent samples of *Margaritifera Margaritifera falcata* to Karen Mock’s lab in Utah last month. We sampled to define major lineage and also sampled to describe gene flow among populations. We await these results.”

**ODFW Mussel Conservation and Studies:** Currently Oregon does not require permits to take mussels. There is a freshwater invertebrate category but it does not include mussels. There are bait and scientific take issues for mussels. ODFW has the jurisdiction to require permits so this is in the works. A new category for mussels will be added to the online application.

**Mussel Presentation to ODFW:** Nancy Duncan talked about the presentation that she and Al gave to ODFW biologists. Al led the classroom portion and Nancy and Al showed them a mussel colony and habitat. The biologists promised data in return so hopefully it will materialize.

**Mussel Surveys on the Umpqua:** Nancy Duncan continued her survey of the Umpqua River basin. They have done 27 miles of the South Umpqua where they found maybe 400 mussels total. The 10 miles surveyed on the North Umpqua was very patchy. Areas that looked good had no mussels and then half a mile downstream there were 100,000 in one area. They saw live *Gonidea* mixed with *Margaritifera*. The South Umpqua has one dam while the North Umpqua has five.

**Willamette Riverkeeper Surveys:** They have done surveys on the mainstem Willamette and two tribs (South Scappoose and Luckiamute Rivers). They found *Margaritifera* in the mainstem Willamette near Dayton, the Luckiamute, and S. Scappoose.

**Updates:**

- 1) Molly is doing a half-day lecture/field trip (Mill Creek?) for high school students.
- 2) Christina asked the group if they had ideas on research that needed to be done with a very small budget. Fish host specificity was the consensus.

**Next Meeting:** November 27, 2007 at the University of Washington, Tacoma branch (in MAT 352- the old mattress factory building) at 10am.