

FRESHWATER MUSSELS MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2008 – 2023

Recommended by Working Group March 25, 2008

GOAL

Ensure the long-term viability of native freshwater mussels, their habitats, and their hosts in Maine.

Funding Objective: By 2010, develop and implement a plan to secure funding to accomplish the following conservation and management objectives.

Population Objective 1: Through 2023, at a minimum, maintain current distributions and population levels of all native freshwater mussel species in Maine. Where feasible, restore historical distributions of native species and increase current population levels of Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species where numbers are documented to be low or declining.

Population Objective 2: By 2013, determine need for and feasibility of reintroducing Endangered or Threatened freshwater mussel species into their historical waters in Maine.

Population Objective 3: Through 2023, investigate and monitor the need to regulate the commercial harvest of native freshwater mussels in Maine and, if needed, implement necessary actions.

Habitat Objective 1: Through 2023, where feasible, improve or restore degraded, altered, or lost freshwater mussel habitats in Maine, especially at sites with Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species.

Habitat Objective 2: Through 2023, identify and initiate conservation measures for all known sites supporting listed species or exemplary native freshwater mussel communities (e.g., sites with high mussel diversity or abundance) in Maine.

Habitat Objective 3: Through 2023, maintain and/or restore viable populations of native host fishes for freshwater mussel species native to Maine that have restricted or specialized host requirements, or are listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern.

Outreach Objective: By 2010, develop and implement an outreach plan to increase awareness and understanding of freshwater mussels and their conservation needs in Maine. *[Examples of high priority outreach needs include: habitat management guidelines; protocols for the recovery, relocation and post-monitoring of listed species; notifications of listed species occurrences targeted at landowners and water managers; and proactive measures to prevent introduction of invasive species.]*

Research Objective: Through 2023, identify and implement strategies to increase our knowledge and understanding of the life histories, habitat requirements, and conservation needs of native freshwater mussels in Maine. *[Examples of high priority research needs include: effective population monitoring techniques;*

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population dynamics and demographics of listed species; micro habitat requirements; fish hosts; conservation genetics; effects of contaminants; effects of dam removal and significance of impoundments to listed species; and effective recovery, relocation, and post-monitoring protocols.]