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;]
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.]