UMRCC Mussel Tech - 2024

Holiday Inn, Rock Island, IL

Tuesday, March 26 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Mussel Technical Section Chair: Sarah Douglass, Illinois Natural History Survey, sabales@illinois.edu

8:30 AM

Brief Welcome

Webex virtual option provided by Annie Hentschke:
https://mdc.webex.com/meet/Annie.Hentschkemdc.mo.gov
Meeting number:
921 329 815
Approximately 70-80 attended the meeting.

9:00

Dan Kelner (US Army Corps of Engineers) presented a summary of Mussel Coordination Team (MCT) efforts and some highlights from the MCT meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024.
Scott Gritters (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) presented insights into successful Iowa permit applications and mussel conservation or known as "Fun with Permits!".
Dan Kelner presented a summary of Upper Mississippi River/Illinois River navigation pool mussel distributions, and Implementation of biological opinion for Higgins Eye and Winged Mapleleaf. This included work on UMR Pool 14 Albany Island mussel habitat improvement monitoring and Beaver Island HREP.

10:15

BREAK

10:30

Neal Jackson provided the Coordinators Report.
Emily Grossman (EnviroScience, Inc) presented mussel survey information from the Illinois River (Marseilles Pools) and Upper Mississippi River (Pools 11 & 14, and NESP mooring cell surveys).
Jesse Weinzinger (GEI Consultants) presented on the I-39/90/94 Wisconsin River mussel relocation.
Isabel Boyce (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) presented information on the Minnesota Clam Counter Application.
Nick Utrup (US Fish and Wildlife Service) presented federal Threatened & Endangered species updates.

11:45

Alison Stodola (Illinois Natural History Survey) presented on sediment boring cores from the Mississippi River at I-80 bridge. Invasive Zebra Mussel was found in nearly every sample, 1 live Fragile Papershell and some broken unionid shells, and some gastropods shells were encountered. No T&E species found in boring cores. Interstate 80 bridge replacement project I80mississippibridge.com.
Sarah Douglass (INHS) gave a brief update on the UMRCC mussel booklet. We redistributed to states with low counts but currently have enough in stock for 2-3 years. We plan to have minor revisions (e.g., name updates, adding species) before publishing the 4th Edition within this timeframe.
We did not have time for any state or other agency updates.

12:00 PM

Adjourn

Follow up questions from Webex virtual Mussel Tech 2024:

from Marian Shaffer NPS St. Croix to everyone: 9:55 AM
Wondering what habitat schematic group would recommend for WML habitat creation? They just seem SO particular, like they need the perfect mix of sand/gravel/cobble/flow. Thinking of our fish telemetry results to pin point areas for habitat creation/supplementation in St. Croix and UMR (I am sure SHelly also has input.... can maybe discuss as a group later).
from Marian Shaffer NPS St. Croix to everyone: 9:58 AM
maybe dont bring this up as a question... just thinking out loud and something id like to discuss with group! (Dan, SHelly, Mark, ALlie, Byron, others) ** Related to Dan`s second presentation (Albany)

from Allie NPS to everyone: 11:41 AM
Is there anything in the education section clarifies the difference between 'mussel' and 'clam' (or that they're synonymous) this is a common question I get from people newly discovering freshwater mussels. Many people hear 'freshwater mussel' and immediately think of invasive zms, they aren't aware there are native clams. **Clam counter MNDNR

Mussel Booklets Needed: Marian Shaffer NPS St. Croix