

**Division of Natural Resources**

**Wildlife Resources Section**

**Operations Center**

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 ***Governor***  ***Director***

**April 29, 2016**

To Prospective WV Mussel Surveyors:

Once again the WV Mussel Survey Protocols have been revised. While few substantive changes have been made for 2016, we tried to clarify much of what was the intent of the significant changes made in 2015. I have tried to summarize the changes below and note areas that have been overlooked or in need of clarification. Be sure to read the entire protocol and ensure that you are using the newest forms. I will update the WVDNR website soon (http://www.wvdnr.gov/Mussels/Main.shtm) but in the mean time I am supplying you with the most current forms available.

In 2014 the state Sranks were revised. The MusselList2016.pdf reflects those changes. Any reference to the status of mussels in WV should use this list and no other lists such as NatureServe. While I am aware that species names are changing, until such a time that a new “common and scientific names” list is generated, the names used in the above file are the accepted names for mussel surveys in WV.

Also, be advised that projects that encompass more than one stream crossing should have the scope of work and final report organized such that the material for each individual stream crossing can be reviewed in its entirety without flipping back and forth through the documents. You should also note that an additional paragraph was added to the Prior Notification section (top of page 4).

Protocol:

Summary of Changes:

* Report Requirements Checklist added, page 5.
* The number of quadrat excavations were reduced for a Phase 2, Group 2. Revised requirement is 3 per 100m2 (10m by 10m cell) within mussel concentration area of salvage zone only. If an ES has been observed anywhere within the entire survey reach then a minimum of 30 quadrats are required within the mussel concentration area of the salvage zone. (Pages 12 and 13)
* *Obliquaria reflexa* was added to the exemption list for Group 4 streams (Table 3).

Protocol Form:

Please note on the upper right hand corner of the form is the version date. Be sure to use the one dated 4/29/2016. No earlier versions will be accepted. Lines were added for Submittal Date and Revision Date. Once you have submitted your scope of work, the submittal date should not change; this is for the initial submission. If we request changes then the revision date will become active.

Remember, the protocol form is to be revised with any changes that were made during the actual survey (gps coordinates, number of cells or transects, total area surveyed, etc.) and a revised protocol form is to be submitted with the final report.

Project Company: this is the actual company responsible for the project. It is not acceptable to leave it black or say “privileged”. We cannot make a full assessment of the project needs without knowing what it is and who to contact if questions.

Mussel Contractor: this is the name of the company actually responsible for conducting the mussel survey.

Lead Malacologist, may or may not work solely for the mussel contractor but may have been hired to only be the lead malacologist on site and ensures that all work is meeting protocol, QA/QC of survey effort, and mussel identification. If the lead malacologist is not responsible for writing the report, they must have reviewed and approved the mussel section of the report and thus be a co-author.

Likewise the Lead Malacologist may subcontract divers. Please supply qualifications of the collectors if the certified malacologist is not able to QA/QC the collectors work. Depending on their qualifications, a QA/QC program should be devised to assess thoroughness of the collecting.

Project Contractor: This is the Contractor hired by the Project Company, who in turn hired the mussel contractor. The Project Contractor may be the same as the Mussel Contractor. (In other words, who hired the Mussel Contractor to do the work? The Project Company or another Contractor?)

A Location Description cell was added. Please supply location of nearest town, road (intersection), etc. If you fill in this form completely, you do not need the Site Record form previously required.

Scope of work:

Likewise, multiple submissions become confusing. Please incorporate a Submission Date and any Revision Dates as appropriate.

I want to thank you all for your cooperation. I think the protocol has helped streamline the process on both ends. Please let me know if you have any questions I have not addressed.

 Sincerely,

 

 Janet L. Clayton

 Wildlife Diversity Biologist

Mussel Program Leader

WV Division of Natural Resources

Wildlife Resources Section

CC: Barbara Sargent, Barbara Douglas, Danny Bennett, Scott Warner