

**American Malacological Society (AMS) Conservation Committee Imperiled Species News
August 2022***

(A modified copy of this report was first presented at the American Malacological Society Executive Council Board Meeting in August 2022)

Conservation Activities for U.S. Mollusks

Since the last virtual meeting of AMS in 2021, there has been considerable legal action on rare and endangered mollusk species in the U.S. by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These are summarized below:

The Canoe clubshell (*Pleurobema atearnii*), was listed as Endangered and Critical Habitat designated on July 6, 2022. On August 26, 2021, five species were approved for listing as Endangered: Guadalupe fatmucket, (*Lampsilis bergmanni*), Texas fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*), Guadalupe orb (*Cyclonaias necki*), Texas pimpleback (*Cyclonaias* (= *Quadrula*) *petrina*), and false spike (*Fusconaia* (= *Quincuncina*) *mitchelli*); and one listing as Threatened: Texas fawnsfoot (*Truncilla macrodon*). The Atlantic pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*) was listed as Endangered with critical habitat designated on November 26, 2021.



Photo credit canoe clubshell: Todd Fobian/Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The Kanab ambersnail, *Oxyloma haydeni kanabensis*, was removed from the Federal list of Endangered and Threatened species on June 24 due to taxonomic uncertainty as to its validity.

It was determined that listing was not warranted for the evening fieldslug (*Deroceras hesperium*), Amargosa tryonia (*Tryonia variegata*), Ash Meadows pebblesnail (*Pyrgulopsis*

erythropoma), Burrington jumping slug (*Hemphillia burringtoni*), crystal springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis crystalis*), Dalles sideband (*Monadenia fidelis minor*), distal-gland springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis nanus*), Fairbanks springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis fairbanksensis*), median-gland springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis pisteri*), minute tryonia (*Tryonia ericae*), Point of Rocks tryonia (*Tryonia elata*), southwest Nevada pyrg (*Pyrgulopsis turbatrix*), and sportinggoods tryonia (*Tryonia angulata*).

A Recovery Plan was enacted on November 3, 2021 for the Diamond tryonia (*Pseudotryonia adamantina*) and Gonzales tryonia (*Tryonia circumstriata*).

Critical Habitat for the Texas hornshell (*Popenaias popeii*) was proposed on June 10, 2021, along 464 river miles in New Mexico and Texas. Critical habitat was also designated on July 1 for the Suwannee moccasinshell (*Medionidus walkeri*) on 190 river miles in Florida.

ESA 5-Year Reviews in 2021:

June 23, 2021: the Cumberland elktoe (*Alasmidonta atropurpurea*), Cumberland pigtoe (*Pleurobema gibberum*), finerayed pigtoe (*Fusconaia cuneolus*), heavy pigtoe (*Pleurobema taitianum*), speckled pocketboard ok (*Lampsilis streckeri*), lacy Elimia (*Elimia crenatella*), cylindrical Lioplax (*Lioplax cyclostomaformis*), flat pebblesnail (*Lepyrium showalteri*), painted rocksnail (*Leptoxis taeniata*), round rocksnail (*Leptoxis ampla*).

July 14, 2021: Appalachian elktoe (*Alasmidonta raveneliana*), Louisiana pearlshell (*Margaritifera hembeli*), Suwannee moccasinshell (*Medionidus walkeri*), white wartyback (*Plethobasus cicatricosus*), and coiled forest painted snake snail (*Anguispira picta*).

November 5, 2021: winged mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*) and Tumbling Creek cavesnail (*Antrobia culveri*).

November 8, 2021: rough rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica strigillata*).

ESA 5-Year Reviews in 2022:

February 2, 2022: Three Forks springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis trivialis*).

May 10: Oahu tree snails (*Achatinella* spp.), Newcomb's tree snail (*Newcombia cumingi*), humped tree snail (*Partula gibba*), Landgord's tree snail (*Partula langfordi*), Guam tree snail (*Partula radiolata*), Lanai tree snail (*Partulina semicarinata*), Lanai tree snail (*Partula variabilis*), Snake River physa (*Physa natricina*), Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*), and fragile tree snail (*Samoana fragilis*).

May 13: inflated heelsplitter (*Potamilus inflatus*), yellow lance (*Elliptio lanceolata*), orangefoot pimpleback (*Plethobasus cooperianus*), and Anthony's riversnail (*Athearnia anthonyi*).

Taxonomic revisions were approved to reflect current scientifically accepted nomenclature for 18 currently listed mussel and snail species on February 17 and March 17, 2022.

In the most dramatic ruling in years, 23 animal and plant species were removed from the Federal list of Endangered and Threatened species due to extinction. Prior to this ruling, only 11 species had ever been removed from the Endangered Species Act due to confirmed extinction and of these, never had more than two species been removed at the same time. Sadly, eight of these were freshwater mussels: flat pigtoe (*Pleurobema marshalli*), southern acornshell

(*Epioblasma othcaloogensis*), stirrupshell (*Quadrula stapes*), upland combshell (*Epioblasma metastrata*), green blossom pearly mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa gubernaculum*), tubercled blossom pearly mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa torulosa*), turgid blossom pearly mussel (*Epioblasma turgidula*), and yellow blossom pearly mussel (*Epioblasma florentina florentina*). The other species include the ivory-billed woodpecker, Bachman's warbler, 9 Hawai'i and Pacific Island birds, Guam's Little Mariana fruit bat, two fish (San Marcos gambusia and Scioto madtom) and a Hawaiian endemic in the mint family (*Phyllostegia glabra* var. *lanaiensis*).



Photo credit ivory-billed woodpecker: AP

On a brighter note, one listed species, the Morro shoulderband (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*), was reclassified from Endangered to Threatened on February 3, 2022, due to improved status since listing.

Conservation Activities Canada COSEWIC

Canada completed its assessment of a few mollusk species in their Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), Canada's equivalent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through June 2022. The eastern banded tigersnail (*Anguispira kochi kochi*) was listed as Endangered in August 2021 as it is still hanging on in isolated islands on Lake Erie. The threaded vertigo (*Vertigo rowellii*) was reconfirmed as Special Concern in May 2022 with limited distribution at the northern edge of its range.

Upcoming Events:

The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS) will be conducting a workshop, Survey Guidelines and Techniques, to be held at Henry Horton State Park on the Duck River, Tennessee, from August 8-12, 2022. Register and more information at https://molluskconservation.org/EVENTS/2022WORKSHOP/2022_FMCS-Workshop.html.

Conservation Committee Soliciting Members:

The AMS Conservation Committee seeks members for conservation related action that fits with the Society's mission. The current AMS mission reads:

The American Malacological Society (AMS) believes that the interests of malacology (the scientific study of mollusks), of science in general, and of the well-being of the human race are best served by the protection of intact ecosystems and their naturally occurring biodiversity. The AMS therefore supports measures at all levels of government and society, throughout the world, to:

1. protect natural biodiversity in general, proactively;
2. protect threatened and endangered species;
3. protect natural ecosystems of sufficient size and configuration to be self-sustaining;
4. manage adequately natural reserves established for the conservation of biodiversity;
5. prevent invasion of natural ecosystems by non-indigenous organisms;
6. prevent human-produced pollution from degrading ecosystems and threatening their natural biota.

Currently, much work of the Committee is providing an ongoing series of installments on current and proposed Federal legislation and regulations regarding mollusks. Selected summaries are on the AMS Committee Policy on Biological Conservation (<https://ams.wildapricot.org/AMS-Imperiled-Species-Newsletter>) web page summarizing recent legislative actions by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service on conservation of marine, freshwater, and terrestrial mollusks. An Imperiled Species Newsletter includes Federal Register reports on scheduled hearings, proposed rulings, formal rules, and regulations. Deadlines for public comment are included to guide readers submitting their knowledge and opinions.

The Committee strives to remain up to date on mollusk conservation actions. A future goal is to provide information on regional and national research or activities related to successes (and failures!) in molluscan conservation. Committee members will solicit input to include in future installments of the Imperiled Species Newsletter.

Please contact Chair Jay Cordeiro to join the AMS Conservation Committee (jay.cordeiro@umb.edu).

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