

TEXAS ESA DEVELOPMENTS

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TEXAS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT DEVELOPMENTS

- Texas is home to 52 species of freshwater mussels
- Nationwide, 72% of freshwater mussels have state or federal listing designations
- 15 of the Texas species of mussels are listed as threatened at the state level
- 5 mussels located generally within Central Texas are now candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) intends to make listing determinations on Central Texas species in 2018 – 2020

Common Name	Scientific Name	Packages	Federal ESA Listing Status
false spike	<i>Fusconia mitchelli</i>	Central Texas Mussels (FY18)	Petitioned. Positive 90-day finding made. FWS action is a 12-month finding (FY18).
Texas fatmucket	<i>Lampsilis bracteata</i>		Candidates. Petitioned with positive 90-day findings and warranted 12-month findings. FWS action is a proposed listing determination (FY18).
Texas pimpleback	<i>Quadrula petrina</i>		
Texas fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla macrodon</i>		
triangle pigtoe	<i>Fusconaia lananensis</i>	East Texas Mussels (FY19)	Petitioned. Positive 90-day finding made. FWS action is a 12-month finding (FY19).
Louisiana pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema riddellii</i>		
Texas heelsplitter	<i>Potamilus amphichaenus</i>		
golden orb	<i>Quadrula aurea</i>	Texas Quadrula Species (FY20)	Candidates. Petitioned with positive 90-day findings and warranted 12-month findings. FWS action is a proposed listing determination (FY20).
smooth pimpleback	<i>Quadrula houstonensis</i>		
Mexican fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla cognata</i>	Rio Grande Mussels (FY22)	Petitioned. Positive 90-day finding made. FWS action is a 12-month finding (FY22).
Salina mucket	<i>Potamilus metnecktayi</i>		
Texas hornshell	<i>Popenaias popeii</i>	-	Proposed Endangered on Aug 10, 2016. Final Rule (or withdrawal) with Critical Habitat pending.

TEXAS MUSSELS -EFFORTS OF STATE OF TEXAS

- Texas Legislature established task force with Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller) as lead agency and funded research
- Comptroller established a mussel work group to direct research and distribute information
- Interested stakeholders are now meeting monthly to review results of research and determine path forward
- Stakeholder group includes representatives of Comptroller, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, several river authorities, companies, non-governmental environmental organizations, ranchers and municipalities

TEXAS MUSSELS – WORK BEING DONE

- Research on life cycle, which includes a parasitic stage where the larvae attaches to a host fish
- Research efforts are underway to propagate mussels; may be useful for Central Texas mussels
- Research efforts are underway to develop current maps for each species

TEXAS MUSSELS – WORK TO BE DONE

- Reasonable likelihood Central Texas species will be listed
- Comptroller believes most promising approach available to prevent listing is a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)
- In early 2018, stakeholders will consider level of interest in developing a CCAA
- CCAA is prelisting agreement to protect species in exchange for commitment from FWS not list; list as threatened rather than endangered; or if it is listed, additional measures beyond those in agreement will not be required
- CCAA policy is set out at 50 CFR Part 17; most recent revisions published on December 27, 2016 (81 FedReg 95,053)

TEXAS MUSSELS – THREATS TO BE ADDRESSED

- FWS has identified the following threats to Texas species of mussels:
- Impoundments
- Sedimentation
- Chemical contaminants (nutrients, not found below outfalls)
- Dewatering
- Sand/gravel mining
- Non-native species

TEXAS MUSSELS – POTENTIAL VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION MEASURES

- Captive propagation and reintroduction as a conservation measure
- Riparian restoration and protection
- Wildlife and invasive species management
- Sediment control
- Flow and/or groundwater management
- Best management practice for land use
- Other

THANK YOU!



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