



Berry H. (Nick) Tew, Jr.
State Geologist

Critical Habitat Units for Threatened and Endangered Mussels in the Mobile River Basin

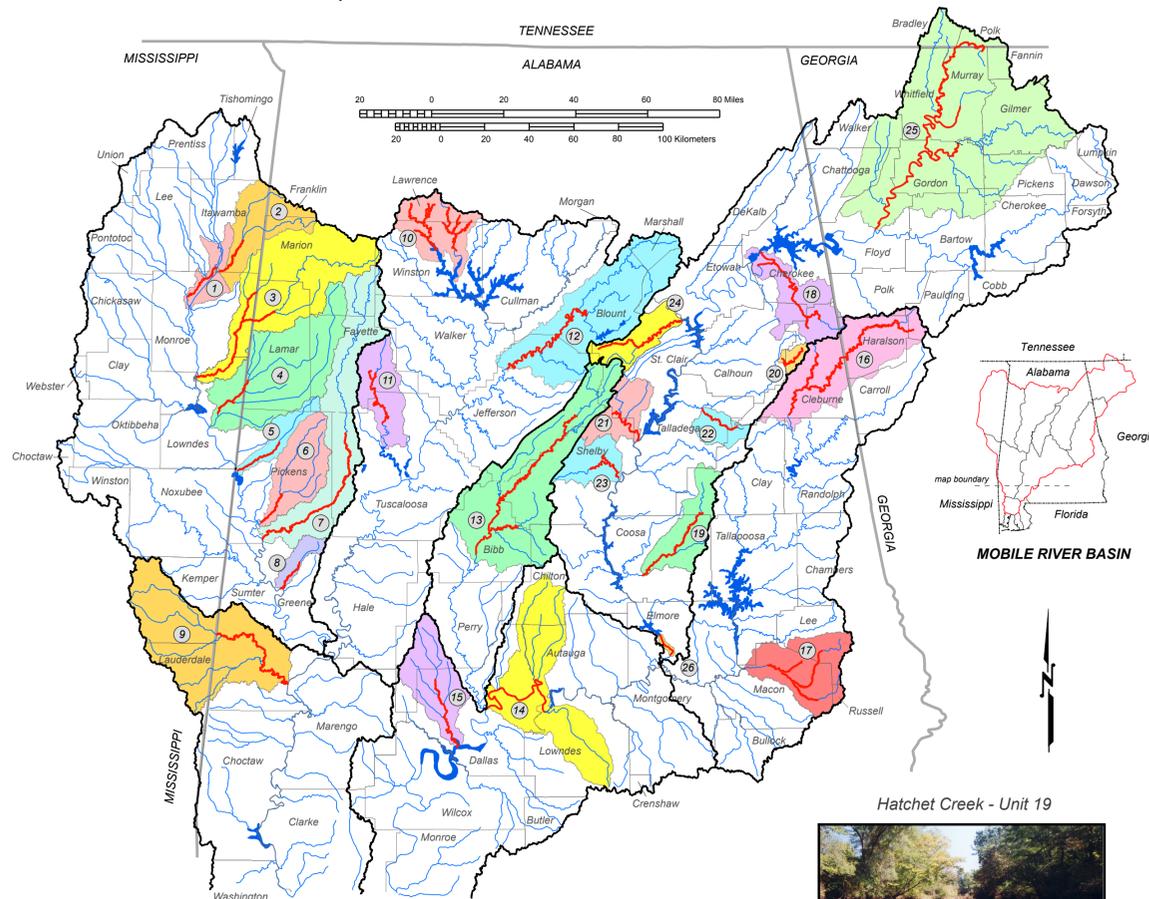
by Patrick E. O'Neil, Stuart W. McGregor, and E. Anne Wynn of the Geological Survey of Alabama
and Jeffrey R. Powell of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Prepared in cooperation with:



Explanation

- Contributing watershed
- Stream
- River drainage boundary
- Critical habitat unit
- State line
- County line



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated 26 river and stream segments (units) in the Mobile River Basin (69 FR 40084) as critical habitat for three threatened and eight endangered freshwater mussel species (table 1) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The habitat units encompass approximately 1,093 miles (1,760 kilometers) of stream and river channels in four states. Although this is a small portion of each species' historic range, the habitat units include a significant part of the Mobile River Basin's remaining high-quality, free-flowing rivers and streams and reflect the variety of small stream to large river habitats once occupied by these species. The 26 habitat units were selected based on best available information about the essential habitat components required by these 11 species including: (1) geomorphically stable stream and river banks and channels; (2) a stream flow regime sufficient for normal behavior, growth, and survival of all life stages of mussels and their fish hosts; (3) acceptable water-quality conditions necessary for normal behavior, growth, and viability of all life stages; (4) sand, gravel, and (or) cobble substrates with low amounts of fine sediment and low amounts of attached filamentous algae; (5) the presence of fish hosts with adequate living, foraging, and spawning areas; and (6) few or no competitive or predaceous nonnative species. Detailed descriptions of critical habitat reaches given below (table 2) allow accurate location on larger scale maps. The colored polygons on the map to the left represent contributing watershed areas to the critical habitat unit reaches depicted in red.

Table 1. Threatened and endangered freshwater mussel species in the Mobile River Basin.

Species	Scientific name	Common name	Status ¹	Critical Habitat Unit in the Mobile River Basin																									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Epiloblasma	<i>metastrata</i>	upland combshell	E																										
Epiloblasma	<i>othcalogensis</i>	southern acornshell	E																										
Lampsilis	<i>altilis</i>	finelined pocketbook	T																										
Lampsilis	<i>perovalis</i>	orange-nacre mucket	T	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Medionidius	<i>acutissimus</i>	Alabama moccasinshell	T	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Medionidius	<i>parvulus</i>	Coosa moccasinshell	E																										
Pleurobema	<i>decisum</i>	southern clubshell	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pleurobema	<i>furvum</i>	dark pigtoe	E																										
Pleurobema	<i>georgianum</i>	southern pigtoe	E																										
Pleurobema	<i>perovatium</i>	ovate clubshell	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ptychobranchius	<i>greenii</i>	triangular kidneyshell	E																										

¹E=endangered; T=threatened

Table 2. Detailed descriptions of critical habitat units in the Mobile River Basin.

Critical Habitat Unit	Name	State/COUNTIES	Reach
1	East Fork Tombigbee River	Miss. Monroe, Itawamba	East Fork of Tombigbee River main stem from Miss. Hwy. 278 upstream to the confluence of Mill Creek.
2	Bull Mountain Creek	Miss. Itawamba	Bull Mountain Creek main stem from Miss. Hwy. 25 upstream to U.S. Hwy. 78
3	Buttahatchee River and Sipsy Creek	Miss. Lowndes, Monroe; Ala. Lamar	Buttahatchee River main stem from its confluence with Columbus Lake upstream to confluence of Beaver Creek. Sipsy Creek from its confluence with Buttahatchee River upstream to the Miss./Ala. state line.
4	Luxapallia Creek and Yellow Creek	Miss. Lowndes; Ala. Lamar	Luxapallia Creek main stem from Waterworks Road (Columbus) upstream to 0.6 mile above Steens Road. Yellow Creek main stem from its confluence with Luxapallia Creek upstream to confluence of Cut Bank Creek.
5	Coalfire Creek	Ala. Pickens	Coalfire Creek main stem from its confluence with Aliceville Lake upstream to U.S. Hwy. 82
6	Lubbub Creek	Ala. Pickens	Lubbub Creek main stem from its confluence with Gainesville Lake upstream to confluence of Little Lubbub Creek.
7	Sipsy River	Ala. Greene, Pickens, Tuscaloosa	Sipsy River main stem from its confluence with Gainesville Lake upstream to Ala. Hwy. 171.
8	Trussells Creek	Ala. Greene	Trussells Creek main stem from its confluence with Demopolis Lake upstream to Ala. Hwy. 14.
9	Sucarnoochee River	Ala. Sumter	Sucarnoochee River main stem from its confluence with the Tombigbee River upstream to the Miss./Ala. state line.
10	Sipsy Fork and tributaries	Ala. Winston, Lawrence	Sipsy Fork main stem from sec. 11/12 line (T. 10 S., R. 8 W.) upstream to confluence of Hubbard Creek. Thompson Creek from its confluence with Hubbard Creek upstream to sec. 2 line (T. 8 S., R. 9 W.). Brushy Creek from the confluence of Clover Creek upstream to sec. 9 (T. 8 S., R. 7 W.). Capey Creek from its confluence with Brushy Creek upstream to confluence of Turkey Creek. Rush Creek from its confluence with Brushy Creek upstream to Winston/Lawrence County line. Brown Creek from its confluence with Rush Creek upstream to sec. 24 line (T. 8 S., R. 7 W.). Beech Creek from its confluence with Brushy Creek to confluence of East and West Forks. Caney Creek and North Fork Caney Creek from their confluence with Sipsy Fork upstream to sec. 14 line (T. 9 S., R. 9 W.). Borden Creek from its confluence with Sipsy Fork upstream to confluence of Montgomery Creek. Flannagin Creek from its confluence with Borden Creek upstream to confluence of Dry Creek.
11	North River and Clear Creek	Ala. Tuscaloosa, Fayette	North River main stem from Tuscaloosa County Road 38 upstream to confluence of Ellis Creek. Clear Creek from its confluence with North River to Bays Lake Dam in Fayette County.
12	Locust Fork and Little Warrior River	Ala. Jefferson, Blount	Locust Fork main stem from U.S. Hwy. 78 upstream to confluence with Little Warrior River. Little Warrior River from its confluence with Locust Fork upstream to confluence of Calvert Prong and Blackburn Fork.
13	Cahaba River and Little Cahaba River	Ala. Jefferson, Shelby, Bibb	Cahaba River from U.S. Hwy. 82 upstream to Jefferson County Road 143. Little Cahaba River from its confluence with Cahaba River upstream to confluence of Mahan and Shoal Creeks.
14	Alabama River	Ala. Autauga, Lowndes, Dallas	Alabama River from its confluence with Cahaba River upstream to confluence of Big Swamp Creek.
15	Bogue Chitto Creek	Ala. Dallas	Bogue Chitto Creek main stem from its confluence with the Alabama River upstream to U.S. Hwy. 80.
16	Tallapoosa River and Cane Creek	Ala. Cleburne; Ga. Paulding, Haralson	Tallapoosa River main stem from U.S. Hwy. 431 upstream to confluence of McClendon and Mud Creeks. Cane Creek from its confluence with the Tallapoosa River upstream to sec. 4 northern line (T. 15 S., R. 11 E.).
17	Uphapee, Choctafaula, and Chewacla Creeks	Ala. Macon, Lee	Uphapee Creek from Ala. Hwy. 199 upstream to confluence of Opintocco and Chewacla Creeks. Choctafaula Creek from its confluence with Uphapee Creek upstream to Macon County Road 54. Chewacla Creek from its confluence with Opintocco Creek upstream to Lee County Road 159. Opintocco Creek from its confluence with Chewacla Creek upstream to Macon County Road 79.
18	Coosa River and Terrapin Creek	Ala. Cherokee, Calhoun, Cleburne	Coosa River main stem (old river channel) from power line crossing southeast of Maple Grove upstream to Weiss Dam. Terrapin Creek from its confluence with old Coosa River channel upstream to Cleburne County Road 49. South Fork Terrapin Creek from its confluence with Terrapin Creek upstream to Cleburne County Road 55.
19	Hatchet Creek	Ala. Coosa, Clay	Hatchet Creek main stem from confluence of Swamp Creek upstream to Clay County Road 4.
20	Shoal Creek	Ala. Calhoun, Cleburne	Shoal Creek main stem from Whitesides Mill Lake upstream to the tailwater of Coleman Lake Dam.
21	Kelly Creek and Shoal Creek	Ala. Shelby, St. Clair	Kelly Creek main stem from its confluence with Coosa River upstream to confluence of Shoal Creek. Shoal Creek main stem from its confluence with Kelly Creek upstream to St. Clair/Shelby County line.
22	Cheaha Creek	Ala. Clay, Talladega	Cheaha Creek main stem from its confluence with Choccolocco Creek upstream to tailwaters of Chinnabee Lake Dam.
23	Yellowleaf Creek and Muddy Prong	Ala. Shelby	Yellowleaf Creek main stem from Ala. Hwy. 25 upstream to Shelby County Road 49. Muddy Prong main stem from its confluence with Yellowleaf Creek upstream to U.S. Hwy. 280.
24	Big Canoe Creek	Ala. St. Clair	Big Canoe Creek main stem from its confluence with Little Canoe Creek upstream to confluence of Fall Branch.
25	Oostanaula, Coosawattee, and Conasauga Rivers and Floyd Creek	Ga. Floyd, Gordon, Whitfield, Murray Tenn. Bradley, Polk	Oostanaula River main stem from confluence with Etowah River upstream to confluence of Conasauga and Coosawattee Rivers. Coosawattee River from its confluence with the Conasauga River upstream to Ga. Hwy. 136. Conasauga River main stem from its confluence with the Coosawattee River upstream to Murray County Road 2. Holly Creek main stem from its confluence with the Conasauga River upstream to confluence of Rock Creek.
26	Lower Coosa River	Ala. Elmore	Coosa River main stem from Ala. Hwy. 111 bridge upstream to Jordan Dam.

Borden Creek - Unit 10



Cahaba River - Unit 13



Hatchet Creek - Unit 19



Locust Fork - Unit 12