



Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP)
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
Workshop

Incorporating Freshwater Mussels in the Chesapeake Partnership
March 5-6, 2020

Location: Chesapeake Bay Foundation Philip Merrill Center, Annapolis, MD
Canvasback Meeting Room

Workshop Webpage: <https://www.chesapeake.org/stac/events/incorporating-freshwater-mussels-in-the-chesapeake-bay-partnership/>

Thursday, March 5

****Exact Times Are Subject to Change****

- 8:30 am** Coffee & Light Breakfast and networking (Provided)
- 9:00 am** Introduction—*Joe Wood (Chesapeake Bay Foundation)*
- 9:15 am** A brief history of Mussels and Ecosystem Services— *Dave Strayer (Cary Institute)*
- 9:45 am** The versatility (or headache) of diversity: understanding the ecological functions provided by complex mussel communities— *Carla Atkinson, University of Alabama*
- 10:15 am** Holistic Shellfish Restoration for Clean Water— *Danielle Kreeger (Partnership for the Delaware Estuary)*
- 10:40 am** Q & A for panel
- 10:50 am** Break
- 11:00 am** Bivalve BMP's - Adapting Proposed Tidal BMP's to Flowing Waters?— *Jeff Cornwell (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science)*
- 11:20 am** Principles of the national strategy on Mussels- What might Ches Bay Aspire to?—*Bob Anderson (USFWS)*
- 11:45 am** **Concurrent Breakout Groups (boxed lunches)** Groups should identify detailed next steps including who will do what, provide policy recommendations and indicate if further discussions are warranted on such recommendations. Groups will report out (15 minutes to present, 5 minutes of discussion) to the broader group for input.

Group 1: Who are the Mussels of the Bay Watershed? Developing an Inventory of Chesapeake Bay Species and Restoration Efforts and looking towards goals. [Room: *Bufflehead*]

Group 2: The influence of Freshwater Mussel upon water resources: Ecosystem Services, Bioindicators and other benefits [Room: *Canvasback*]

Group 3: The influence of Bay restoration (and water quality) upon freshwater mussels: BMPs, threats, and the need for guidance. [Room: *Merganser*]

- 2:30 pm** **Synthesis of Breakout Discussions**
15 minutes of report-out followed by 5 minutes for discussion from each breakout group



3:30 pm

Group Discussion of Next Steps, Day 2 breakout sessions

4:00 pm

Extending the Reach: Strategies for Expanding Mussel Restoration — *Mary Gattis (Mary Gattis, LLC)*

Participants will identify target audiences and key messages most likely to prompt additional mussel restoration activity. The information from this session will inform communication and engagement strategies to be further developed following the workshop.

4:30 pm

Networking / Brainstorming Happy Hour (Provided by CBF) Sign up for Day 2 activities; Shell Identification Activities.

5:00 pm

Casual Dinner

Friday, March 6

8:00 am

Light Breakfast and Coffee (Provided)

8:15 am

Recap of Day 1 and Setting the Stage for Day 2—*Joe Wood (CBF)*

Discussion to review the findings from Day 1 discussions and set the charge for Day 2 in identifying concrete recommendations.

8:30 am

State and Federal Mussel efforts: Hatchery Work, Capacity and Mission- quick talks and panel

Rachel Mair, USFWS, Julie Devers, USFWS, Danielle Kreeger, PDE, Brian Watson, DGIF, Jenny Landry, NYDEP, Amy Maher, NYDEP, Matt Ashton, MDE

9:15 am

Natural Resource Trustees, Natural Resource Damage Assessments, and Information Needs/Approaches for Freshwater Mussels — *Simeon Hahn (NOAA)*

9:30

Next steps, Instructions for Breakout sessions – *Joe Wood (CBF)*

9:45 am

Concurrent Breakout groups (self-selected) Developing Specific Recommendations from small groups and further deliberations. Participants will self-select into breakout groups to focus on developing specific recommendations and next-steps. Each group should prepare 2-3 slides to synthesize their findings.

Expected workgroups needed (Identify facilitators)

1. BMP expert panel recommendations (Merganser)
2. What kind of tools can we create or utilize to improve mussel outcomes? *Shawn McLaughlin*
3. What Mussel Goals should we set for the Chesapeake Bay Drainage?
4. Establishing a plan to ensure mussel populations are protected by Water quality Standards
5. BMP guidance for mussels: Stream Restoration, Ag,others?
6. Strategies to improve engagement and communication, *Mary Gattis?*
7. NRDA Workgroup (Terrapin) *Simeon Hahn*
8. Summarizing non-nutrient ecosystem services

11:15 am

Synthesize Results from Breakout Group Discussions→ Into Lunch, Each breakout group will present their findings and open the floor for discussion on final recommendations and next-steps.

12:00 pm

Lunch (Provided)

1:00 pm

Adjournment