

# Which Mussels are in danger?



▲  
**Northern riffleshell mussel**

**In Pennsylvania, the northern riffleshell, the dwarf wedgemussel and the clubshell are currently on the federal endangered species list.**

**Clubshell mussel** ▶



Currently, three mussel species in Pennsylvania are on the federal ***endangered species*** list. They are the northern riffleshell, the dwarf wedgemussel and the clubshell. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission has also listed these three species, as well as the eastern pearlshell, as state endangered so that they receive special protection. Scientists are studying these four species and many others in Pennsylvania and around the world because of the severe decline in their numbers.

About 25 additional mussel species (or half of the species remaining) in Pennsylvania are rare and declining in abundance. Globally, mussels are the most imperiled taxa—group of similarly classified organisms in the animal kingdom. This decline in mussel abundance and continuing threat to their survival also appear to be true in Pennsylvania.

## **The Future of Mussels**

Many different agencies are working together to find solutions to problems facing our mussels. They are surveying, monitoring and restoring habitats. Some mussels facing extinction have been taken to fish hatcheries for safe-keeping. Hatcheries are developing ways to raise rare mussels for release. They are then put back into restored streams and rivers. Aquariums and zoos also help by conducting research and education programs.

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