

No. 75	Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Liaison	Jeremy Tiemann
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Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society

TO: **John Boreman**, AFS President
FROM: Jeremy Tiemann, FMCS liaison
DATE: 7 July 2013

I. Motion Report - None

II. Activity Report

The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS) held its biennial meeting on 10-14 March 2013 at Lake Guntersville State Park in Alabama. This year's meeting was titled "Species Recovery and Restoration – from Concept to Implementation." The program was full with 112 presentations across 24 sessions.

Several FMCS members co-authored the first American Fisheries Society conservation assessment of freshwater gastropods (snails) from Canada and the United States. This review, published in the June 2013 issue of *Fisheries* (38:247-282) covers 703 species representing 16 families and 93 genera, of which 67 species are considered extinct, or possibly extinct, 278 are endangered, 102 are threatened, 73 are vulnerable, 157 are currently stable, and 26 species have uncertain taxonomic status. Of the entire fauna, 74% of gastropods are imperiled (vulnerable, threatened, endangered) or extinct, which exceeds imperilment levels in fishes (39%) and crayfishes (48%), but is similar to that of freshwater mussels (72%).

The FMCS is hosting a freshwater mollusk symposium titled "Conservation Strategies for Freshwater Mollusks" at this year's AFS meeting in Little Rock. Research topics include ecosystem services provided by mollusks, modeling habitat suitability for endangered mussel species, and the role host fishes play in the ecology of endangered species and mussel diversity.

We are currently planning our 2014 workshop. The proposed topic of this workshop will be "Mussel Considerations in Dam Removals, Mussel Salvage, and Relocations," and will be held in the Portland, Maine, area in April 2014.

The FMCS is currently updating the National Strategy for the Conservation of Freshwater Mollusks. The goal of this national strategy is to conserve our nation's native freshwater mollusk fauna, and ensure that their ecological, social and economic values to society are maintained at a sustainable level. Specifically, the purpose of this document is to identify

conservation, management, research, and monitoring actions necessary to maintain and recover mollusk faunas.

Many FMCS members also are AFS members, and several of those that are not AFS members have working relationships with someone in AFS. Our two societies have similar objectives (e.g., advocate conservation of freshwater resources and serve as a conduit for information about those resources), work on similar projects (e.g., non-game conservation and stream restoration), and face similar issues (e.g., hydraulic fracking and climate change). We hope our two societies can continue to work together in the future. More information about FMCS can be found on our webpage (<http://www.molluskconservation.org/>).