Allegheny River pearly mussels under I-86 bridge: a fast water survey
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Introduction

Pearly mussels
- protected native bivalves

Proposed bridge maintenance
- potentially threatened bivalves

Methods

June 14, 2015
- survey beneath & near bridge

SCUBA diving
- limited visibility
  - lights used
- strong currents
  - bottom grabber used

Results

5 spp found
- 4 listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need*
1. Mucket* (Actinonaias ligamentina)
2. Elktoe* (Alasmidonta marginata)
3. Spike* (Elliptio dilatata)
4. Pocketbook* (Lampsilis cardium/L. ovata)
5. Squawfoot (Strophitus undulata)

9 live pearly mussels

Discussion

Standard estimate of total pearly mussels not valid
- due to
  - low visibility
  - strong currents
  - cause pearly mussels to burrow

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