

Higgin's-eye Pearly Mussel *Lampsilis higginsii*

Habitat Preference: Large, rapidly flowing rivers with gravel and stone substrates

Threats:

- Water pollution
 - Industrial discharge
 - Residential discharge
 - Siltation
 - Herbicide runoff
 - Fertilizer runoff
- Dredging
- Construction of dams and levees
- Channelization
- Invasion by non-native species, especially zebra mussels.



Photograph Courtesy:
US Fish and Wildlife Service

Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Implement proper upland management such as contour farming and other soil erosion control methods.
 - Create buffers along water bodies to filter chemicals and sediment out of runoff before it reaches waterways.
 - Establish large shade trees such as oaks and cottonwoods along stream corridors.
 - Limit grazing, cows and pigs can destabilize banks and directly crush mussels.
 - Pesticide use should be reduced.
- Install riffles or other fish habitat components.
- Cease channelization
- Limit further construction of impoundment structures and remove existing structures when feasible.
- Create fish passageways over existing dams.
- Limit dredging to previously disturbed areas or to areas of unsuitable habitat.