

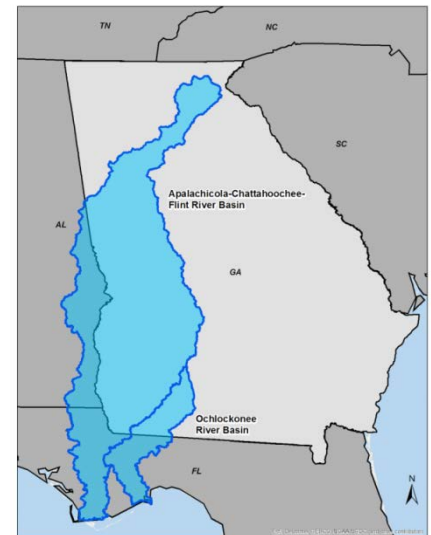
DRAFT –Southwest Georgia Aquatic Species -- DRAFT Effects Determination Guidance for Endangered & Threatened Species (EDGES)

Appalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Basin

Species Covered by This EDGES:

- Endangered: Fat threeridge (*Amblema neislerii*), Gulf moccasinshell (*Medionidus penicillatus*), Ochlockonee moccasinshell (*Medionidus simpsonianus*), oval pigtoe (*Pleurobema pyriforme*), and shinyrayed pocketbook (*Hamiota subangulata*).
- Threatened: Purple bankclimber (*Elliptoideus sloatianus*)

These mussels occur in the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint, and Ochlockonee River basins. They typically are found in small streams to large rivers with moderate flow and sandy to silty substrates, although the Gulf moccasinshell has been found in gravel and cobble substrates. To reproduce, these mussels release larva, called glochidia, into the water. Glochidia must find and attach to the gills or fins of an appropriate host fish to complete development. The Ochlockonee moccasinshell is found only in the Ochlockonee basin. The other species occur in the ACF, including the Chattahoochee and Flint River mainstems downstream of Atlanta, Kirkland and Sawhatchee Creeks in the Chattahoochee River Basin, and Kinchafoonee, Ichawaynochaway, Spring, and/or Muckalee Creeks in the Flint River Basin. The purple bankclimber and shinyrayed pocketbook also occur in the Ochlockonee.



Primary threats include habitat fragmentation, alteration of flows in areas with extensive agricultural irrigation or impoundments, excess sedimentation, and competition with the introduced flathead catfish.

Critical Habitat for the ACF mussels in Georgia has been designated in the Flint River mainstem, Spring Creek, Aycocks Creek, Dry Creek, Ichawaynochaway Creek, Mill Creek, Pachitla Creek, Little Pachitla Creek, Chickasawhatchee Creek, Coolewahee Creek.

This EDGES covers (1) maintenance of existing structures and (2) new development, including subdivisions, commercial development, roads, water supply infrastructure, and sewer mains, pipe and powerlines, stream restoration/stabilization (including mitigation banks) and similar projects. It does not cover new drinking water reservoirs, airports, or similar large-impact projects.

Endangered Species Act Consultation Checklist:

Applicant:

1. IPAC indicates listed ACF aquatic species may occur in the project area.
 - a. No.....No effect. Provide IPaC information to the Savannah District with application/PCN.
 - b. Yes.....Go to #2.
2. The Fish and Wildlife Service-Georgia Field Offices (FWS-GA) provided documentation evaluating habitat, potential presence of species, suitable survey methodology and/or potential project impacts (FWS-GA signed letter or sticker, T&E survey where FWS-GA provided concurrence with negative findings, or similar documentation).
 - a. No.....Provide completed EDGES Applicant Coordination Slip and supporting documentation to the Savannah District with 404 application/PCN.
 - b. Yes.....Provide FWS-GA project review documentation and/or survey data to the Savannah District with application/PCN.

Savannah District:

3. IPAC indicates Critical Habitat for one or more of these mussel species has been designated.
 - a. No.....Go to #4.
 - b. Yes.....Contact FWS-GA to determine if consultation is needed.

4. The project will impact a perennial stream.
 - a. No.....NLAA. Consultation complete. FWS-GA does not need to concur.
 - b. Yes.....Go to #5.

5. Quick email consultation with FWS-GA staff documents listed species are **not** likely to occur on or downstream of the site (based on previous survey records, location of dams/other fish passage blockages, size of upstream watershed, photos of stream etc.).
 - a. No.....Go to #6.
 - b. Yes.....NLAA. Consultation complete. FWS-GA's email response serves as concurrence.

6. Data are provided in the PCN or application to assist the Savannah District and FWS-GA evaluate T&E impacts:
 - a. No.....Request the information and, once received, continue with 6c.
 - b. Yes.....Share data with FWS-GA-Columbus and continue consultation. If consultation results in a Savannah District' determination of:
 - i) NLAA, and FWS-GA concurs, in writing, consultation is complete.
 - ii) LAA, and FWS-GA concurs, initiate formal consultation.

Information to be Provided the Savannah District for Endangered Species Act Review

All (where applicable):

- Verification that the project will meet all requirements of the Georgia NPDES General Permits for sediment and erosion, construction stormwater management, and waste disposal.
- A post-construction stormwater management plan that meets at least the current Georgia Blue Book standards.
- A timeline documenting when land clearing, construction, and post-construction actions will be implemented.
- An estimate of total acreage that will be graded at any one time.

Urban development:

- Total acreage of the development and estimate percentage of impervious surface post-construction.
- Data detailing where riparian buffers will be removed or thinned to less than 50 feet wide on both banks.
- Location of new or improved culverts, bridges, dams, stormwater facilities, and utility crossings of streams. Data requirements for these structures, other than location, are listed below.
- The acreage of land that will be graded at any one time.
- Location of any point-source discharges.

New or replacement culverts in perennial stream (in addition to all data required in the current NWP Regional Conditions).

- Post-construction channel and bank stabilization measures, including revegetation plans.
- A description of grade or velocity controls to be installed, including riprap.

New or widened utility right-of-way (e.g., water main, sewer, pipelines, transmission lines):

- Methodology for each stream excavation (wet cut, dam-pump, flume, bore).
- Amount and source of hydrostatic test water and slurry water (if needed).
- Location where hydrostatic test and slurry water will be discharged (if needed).
- Location of new, replaced, or improved culverts or fords, either permanent or temporary.
- Post-construction channel/bank stabilization measures, including revegetation plans, and ROW maintenance plan.

Stream restoration/stabilization:

- Stream restoration plan (60% design, at a minimum and including a detailed design longitudinal profile).