

# 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, Line, 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, Cooleewahee Creek, Swift Creek, Limestone Creek, Turkey Creek, Pennahatchee Creek, Little Pennahatchee Creek, Hogcrawl Creek, Red Oak Creek, Line Creek, Whitewater Creek, and Lannahassee Creek.

---

### Endangered Species Act Consultation Checklist:

#### Applicant:

1. Does IPaC indicate federally-listed 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. Has the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Georgia Ecological Services Field Office (GA ES) already reviewed and provided comments on the project.
  - a. No.....Go to #3.
  - b. Yes.....Provide GAES project review documentation to the Savannah District with application/PCN.
3. Were determination key(s) completed in IPaC and a consistency letter auto-generated for the project.
  - a. No..... Provide completed EDGES Applicant Consultation Form and supporting documentation to the Savannah District with 404 application/PCN.
  - b. Yes.....Provide IPaC determination key and consistency letter to the Savannah District with application/PCN.

**Savannah District:**

4. Does IPaC indicate Federally-listed aquatic species or designated Critical Habitat may occur in the project area.
  - a. No..... No effect.
  - b. Yes.....Go to #5.
  
5. Has GA ES reviewed the project and provided information that listed aquatic species will not be impacted by the project or has the Savannah district determined that the project will have ‘no effect’ on listed aquatic species.
  - a. No..... Go to #6.
  - b. Yes.....No effect.
  
6. Has the applicant provided a consistency letter from IPaC indicating the project will have ‘no effect’ on federally listed aquatic species or is ‘not likely to adversely affect’ federally listed species.
  - a. No..... Go to #7.
  - b. Yes.....Verify that the applicant has completed the IPaC determination key properly. No concurrence from GA ES is required. Section 7 consultation complete.
  
7. Has the Savannah district completed the required determination key in IPaC and generated a concurrence letter.
  - a. No..... Go to #8.
  - b. Yes..... No concurrence from GA ES required. Section 7 consultation complete.
  
8. Will this project require an Individual 404 Clean Water Act Permit, involve point source discharges, or result in new surface water withdrawals?
  - a. No..... Go to #9.
  - b. Yes..... Go to #15.
  
9. Is potentially suitable habitat present in the project area or within 1 mile downstream of the project area? Suitable habitat information may be found by species at: <https://georgiabiodiversity.org/portal/table/aquatics/>
  - a. No..... NLAA. No concurrence from GA ES required. Section 7 consultation complete.
  - b. Yes..... Go to #10.
  
10. Is the project assuming presence of federally-listed aquatics in the project area?
  - a. No..... Go to #11.
  - b. Yes..... Go to #13.
  
11. Has a survey been conducted to determine if federally-listed aquatics occur in the project area?
  - a. No..... Go to #13.
  - b. Yes..... Go to #12.
  
12. Were any federally-listed aquatics found during the aquatics survey?
  - a. No..... NLAA. No concurrence from GA ES required. Section 7 consultation complete.
  - b. Yes..... Go to #13.
  
13. Will the project include activities that require stream impacts in perennial streams?
  - a. No..... Go to #14.
  - b. Yes..... Go to #15.
  
14. Will the project comply with the minimization measures for aquatic species on the following page?
  - a. No..... Go to #15.
  - b. Yes..... NLAA. No concurrence from GA ES required. Section 7 consultation complete.
  
15. Adequate information is provided in the application to assist the Savannah District and GA ES in consultation?
  - a. No.....Request the information and, once received, continue with 15b.
  - b. Yes.....Share data with GA ES and continue consultation. Go to #15.

16. If consultation results in a Savannah district determination of:
- a. NLAA.....Concurrence letter from GA ES required. Section 7 consultation complete
  - b. LAA.....Initiate formal consultation.

## **Information to be provided to the Savannah District for Endangered Species Act Review**

All should be included with application (where applicable):

- Sediment and erosion control plan, showing all stream buffers, including widths.
- A post-construction stormwater management plan.
- A timeline documenting when land clearing, construction, and post-construction actions will be implemented.
- Location of new or improved culverts, bridges, dams, stormwater facilities, and utility crossings of streams.
- Acreage estimates of disturbed land, undisturbed land, and impervious surface post-construction.

## **Minimization Measures for Aquatic Species**

All should be incorporated into project (where applicable):

- Compliance with Georgia's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act.
- Compliance with the relevant performance standards in the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual.
- Stream buffer protection consistent with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District model stream buffer ordinance.