



TRANSPORTATION CABINET

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February 24, 2012

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New 2012 endangered species status listing of snuffbox mussel in regards to the
Louisville Bridges project
Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project
Jefferson County, KY and Clark County, IN
Item Number: 05-118

On February 14th, 2012 the final rule, Determination of Endangered Status for the rayed bean and snuffbox mussels throughout their ranges (Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2010-0019) was published in the Federal Register. According to recent correspondence with the USFWS-Kentucky Field Office this listing will be effective March 15, 2012. KYTC is in the process of assessing all pending transportation projects that have the potential to impact habitat for these newly listed mussel species. One such project is the Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project. According to some historical distribution data the Falls of the Ohio, located approximately 1.6 km downstream of the project area, at one time provided suitable habitat for snuffbox mussel. KYTC would like to know if future Section 7 consultations with the USFWS-KFO regarding this proposed project will need to include and account for potential impacts to the snuffbox mussel as a result of the proposed bridge project. Any further questions or comments can be directed to David Waldner at (502) 564-7250.

Sincerely,

David M. Waldner, P.E., Director
Division of Environmental Analysis

CC: Project File
Tim Foreman



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