



***Distribution and Status of the Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*)
in Select Massachusetts Watersheds***

Contracting Opportunity

July 28, 2010

To aid its conservation efforts, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) in Westborough, MA is seeking qualified biologist(s) to conduct qualitative freshwater mussel surveys for the triangle floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*), a Species of Special Concern in Massachusetts. During the 2010 field season, approximately \$7,500.00 is available to perform Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) surveys to determine the presence, distribution, abundance, and demographics (e.g., age class structure) of triangle floater populations in select Massachusetts watersheds. Key components of this study are to locate source populations, if they exist, and to identify populations that are experiencing recruitment success. Data for all state-listed species and abundance estimates for common species will also be collected. Surveys will be conducted by bucket, snorkel, and/or SCUBA at select watersheds chosen in consultation with the NHESP (e.g. Chicopee, Millers, Nashua, etc...). A final report shall be submitted by December 15, 2010. The services of the mussel biologist will be retained through the NHESP's relationship with the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. The contract will run from contract signing until NHESP's acceptance of the final report (due on or before December 15, 2010). To apply, individuals (or other vendors) should send a cover letter and resume to: Karen M. Dolan, Finance & Projects Administrator, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581 or email: karen.dolan@state.ma.us. Application deadline is Friday, August 13, 2010.