

# Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

## Restoration Project Information Sheet *(continued)*

**D Project Activity(s)** (Check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Debris Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance/Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> Education

**E Project Habitat(s)** (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Upland	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine/Estuarine Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Beach/Dune
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riverine	<input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtidal (Nearshore/Offshore)

**F Resource Benefit(s)** (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Marine Mammals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shellfish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Column
<input type="checkbox"/> Birds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sediment/Benthos
<input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles/Amphibians	<input type="checkbox"/> Corals	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Use (Recreational, Cultural)

Will the project directly benefit State- or Federally-listed species? If so, please list them. If not, please indicate N/A.

N/A

**G Project Status**

Property/Resource Acquisition	Time to Implementation
Project Planning/Design	1 year
Project Permitting.	Time to Project Completion
Not started	1 year
Not started	

Is this project included under a regional or statewide plan? No

If so, please list:

**H Project Costs**

Estimated Cost	Funding Available

**I Project Partners**

Partner 1 Organization	
Winchester Conservation Commission	
Partner 1 Contact	Partner 1 Involvement
Glenn Vereker	Organizational
Partner 2 Organization	
* See: Project Description	
Partner 2 Contact	Partner 2 Involvement
Partner 3 Organization	
Partner 3 Contact	Partner 3 Involvement

**Disclaimer:**

The submission of project information **does not** guarantee project funding. Projects will be evaluated using criteria identified in OPA, NEPA, implementing regulations, and related laws. Selection and funding determinations will be made by the Trustee Council.

# Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

## Restoration Project Information Sheet

### A General Information

Organization <i>Winchester Conservation Commission</i>			
Contact Name (First Last) <i>ELAINE VEELAND</i>		Title <i>Conservation Administrator</i>	
Address <i>Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon St.</i>		City <i>Winchester</i>	State ZIP <i>MA 01890</i>
Phone Number <i>978-721-7150</i>	Email <i>VEELAND@Winchester.VS</i>		
Organization Website <i>WWW.Winchester.VS</i>			

### B Project Information

Type of Project <i>Wildlife Restoration Study</i>	If this is a Change to an Existing Project, enter the Project ID Number		
Project Name <i>Freshwater Mussel &amp; Clam Restoration Study</i>			
Location (e.g. John Smith National Wildlife Refuge) <i>Aberjona River</i>			
State(s) (Use 2-letter abbreviations separated by commas) <i>MA</i>	County/Parish <i>Middlesex</i>	Watershed/Basin <i>Mystic</i>	
Latitude (decimal degrees) <i>42.453160</i>	Longitude (decimal degrees) <i>-71.133760</i>	Project Size (Choose one) <i>3.72 miles</i>	Affected Area acres tons acres

### C Project Description

Please provide more information about the proposed project. (Limit 2,500 characters.)

This project would explore and implement the seeding of shellfish in the segment of the Aberjona River between the Mystic Lakes and the Winchester/Woburn line. This segment of the river experiences a significant anadromous (river herring) migration, which will spread shellfish along the river. An increased native shellfish population will improve water quality, (one adult mussel can filter up to 15 gallons of water per day; a 6-mile stretch of mussel beds can filter out over 25 tons of particulates per year) and provide food to other wildlife.

In 2008-2008, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries performed a "River Herring Spawning and Nursery Habitat Assessment", concluding that the river contained sufficient suitable habitat to install two fish ladders.

We would hope to build on these findings to determine whether these same conditions could provide suitable habitat to restore freshwater mollusks. The proposed study would determine whether water quality will support freshwater mussel/clam restoration, whether there exists a viable host fish population for the foreseeable future, why mollusks may be absent, or if not absent, whether they have been surveyed appropriately, what are suitable locations to purchase "stocked" shellfish - free of parasites and disease, not combined with invasive species, and genetically compatible with mollusks currently in the river.

We have spoken to the Boston Malacological Society, which has expressed interest and has recommended us to the New England Aquarium, and we hope that we would have access to services from the Division of Marine Fisheries.