



# What are in those floating baskets? FRESHWATER MUSSELS!

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary is raising freshwater mussels in partner ponds throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. These mussels will be used for restoration projects in the Delaware Estuary region.



PDE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and host of the Delaware Estuary Program. Learn more at [www.DelawareEstuary.org](http://www.DelawareEstuary.org).

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Funding to support this project has been received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant program, a Federal Coastal Zone Management Grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection with funds provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, and the Constellation Energy Foundation.

## AN ECOSYSTEM LOST - BUT RECOVERING

Streams in the Delaware Estuary region once teemed with native freshwater mussels. These animals were integral to the watershed's health: each adult can filter gallons of water per day while stabilizing the riverbed and supporting healthy river bottom conditions for plants and other animals like fish.

## PUTTING NATURE TO WORK

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary raises mussels for use in projects aiming to improve water quality, restore habitats, and reintroduce native mussels to rivers where their populations have dwindled.



**More  
Mussels**



**Cleaner  
Water**



**Healthier  
Environment**

## CONSERVATION

Freshwater mussels are one of the most imperiled groups of organisms in North America. Threats include water pollution, habitat disruption, overharvesting, and invasive species. Since most freshwater mussels rely on host fish for successful reproduction, threats to fish species also impact mussels.

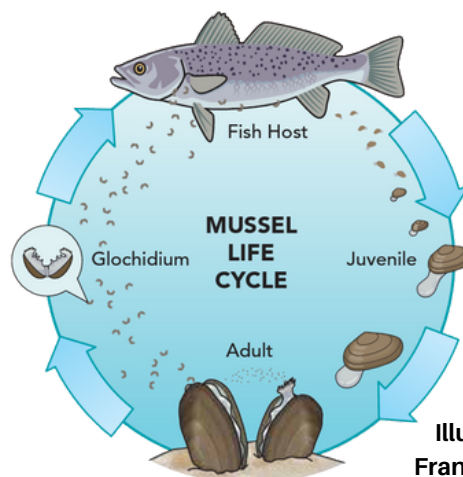


Illustration by  
Frank McShane

Freshwater mussels have a unique life cycle in which baby mussels (glochidia) attach to a host fish during early development. They eventually detach from the fish and grow into adults on the streambed.