

# Yellow Lampmussel

*Lampsilis cariosa*



## Species Description

The Yellow Lampmussel is an oval, freshwater, bivalve, mollusc that reaches lengths of 11 cm, but is generally closer to 7.5 cm. It has a bright yellow to reddish-brown tinge to the outer surface of its glossy shell, and is iridescent white to pink on the inside. Several fine, radiating lines circle the long slope of the outer shell. The soft living parts (mantle) are visible between the shell valves.

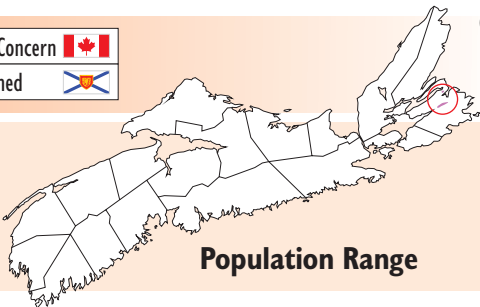
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## STATUS

Special Concern 

Threatened 

Found in Pottle Lake and in the Sydney River, Cape Breton. Also occurs in the lower Saint John River in New Brunswick.



## Population Range

## Habitat

The Yellow Lampmussel generally occurs in fast flowing, alkaline rivers, with sand and gravel bottoms. In Nova Scotia, it is found in Pottle Lake and in river and lake habitats in the upper part of the Sydney River (above the dam). It prefers sandy substrates in areas with low densities of aquatic plants. Water depths typically range from 0.75 - 6.0 m.



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Yellow Lampmussels are found on the bottom of sandy lakes and rivers.

## Interesting Points

- It plays an important role in nutrient cycling, and serves as a food source for other animals.
- The dark rings that form around its shell are added one per year, like trees.
- It increases the clarity and quality of the waters in which it lives by filtering out algae and bacteria.
- Females have a unique modified "lure" that looks like a little fish, which they dangle out to attract potential fish hosts. When one comes nearby, they spew out small parasitic larvae that attach to the fish's gills.

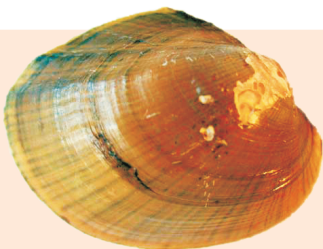


## Similar Species

Twelve freshwater mussel species occur in Atlantic Canada. This includes two other lampmussel species (Eastern and Delicate), but they are not found in Pottle Lake or the Sydney River. Freshwater mussels are sensitive to handling and should not be disturbed if possible.

### Tidewater Mucket:

Smaller, lighter yellow and more delicate.



Tidewater Mucket

## Threats to Survival

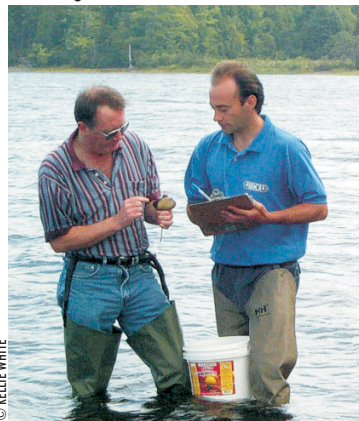
- Habitat loss and degradation (sedimentation).
- Impacts to water quality (pollutants from industrial and military effluents, agriculture, energy production, etc.).
- Introduction of invasive species (Chain Pickerel, Smallmouth Bass, Zebra Mussels, and Crayfish).
- Muskrat predation.

## How You Can Help

Support habitat restoration projects, and pollution reduction programs. Do your best to keep our freshwaters healthy and clean by limiting your use of chemicals at home and at work. Prevent the introduction of invasive species when fishing or boating: do not move fish from one body of water to another or release live bait. Properly clean your boat before moving it from one water body to another.



Raw sewage and industrial waste



Yellow Lampmussel monitoring

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or [xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Info:** [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca), [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447, [www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings)

**Stewardship:** Atlantic Coastal Action Program: [www.acapcb.ns.ca](http://www.acapcb.ns.ca)