

# Threats to Freshwater Mussels

## Dams



Dams fragment rivers. They create lakes from rivers, making survival for mussels adapted to rivers near impossible.

## Stream Chanelization

Stream chanelization, the artificial straightening of a stream, erodes the banks of the stream. This impacts the feeding habits of mussels.

## Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels are a non-native species of mussel. They attatch to native mussels, **suffocating and starving them to death.**



## Why Should I Care?

Many species of freshwater mussels are endangered. This is problematic because:

The loss of mussels will disrupt numerous food webs.

Mussels filter water. The loss of these mussel populations results in degraded water quality.