

Enhanced Mussel Watch Phase 1: Eastern Great Lakes



Gunnar monitors the tow line for the epibenthic dredge in Buffalo River Harbor, Buffalo, NY

Sunday, September 20, 2009

-Kristina Lauenstein

During our usual breakfast meeting this morning in Rochester, NY, we came to the realization that we forgot to establish the Buffalo AoC. We decide to head back to Buffalo once we finish our mornings work here in Rochester.

The Lake is very calm today but it is cool enough that mid morning we see our breath hanging in the air. We are once again at a dredge site, and after few tows we have enough mud covered mussels. We then anchor and work on sediment collection. It is surprisingly easy. We finish quickly and proceed to clean mud off the boat and secure our gear before returning to the marina and, from there, driving to Buffalo.

Establishing a new site near the mouth of the Buffalo River, we do not yet know where to find zebra mussels and so dredge in four places in search of them. We find everything from trash, to vegetation and from mud to small leeches. After about an hour, we have collected enough mussels. Since the bottom is so muddy we decide to collect sediment right where we are. It ends up being the easiest sediment collection imaginable. Lowering the grab sampler only six times, we have a perfect yield.