

“A biogeographic analysis of the crawfish biodiversity of northwestern Louisiana”

This project will identify the kinds of crawfish and their geographic distributions within the northwestern region of Louisiana (Caddo, Bossier, Bienville, DeSoto, Red River, Webster, Claiborne, and the northern half of Natchitoches parishes). The study will utilize many sampling methods in as many habitats as possible in order to add to our knowledge of the ecological requirements of the crawfish in our region, with particular emphasis on those four species (*Fallicambarus dissitus*, *Faxonella beyeri*, *Procambarus elegans*, and *Procambarus geminus*) that are considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in the Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan and on three species (*Procambarus dupratzi*, *Procambarus kensleyi*, and *Procambarus machardy*) that are being added to the SGCN. Sampling in different seasons and during different climatic conditions will provide better information on activity patterns and, possibly, reproductive patterns. This project will help to identify or confirm the species in our area that are less abundant, and thus more vulnerable to habitat or environmental changes, and those that might consist of more stable populations.

(Abstract excerpted from: “*A biogeographic analysis of the crawfish biodiversity of northwestern Louisiana*” SWG Proposal; 2015, Hardy).