

Keep In Touch

If you would like to be kept up to date on the **Pearl Mussel Project**, please complete the form below.

Return completed form by post or e-mail your details to: Pearl Mussel Project, Bell Height, Kenmare, County Kerry, V93 KD00. E-mail: Info@pmproject.ie

*Please use **BLOCK CAPITALS** when completing this form*

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

River catchment (please tick one):

- Blackwater Kerry
- Bundorragha Mayo
- Caragh Kerry
- Currane Kerry
- Dawros Galway
- Glaskeelan Donegal
- Owenriff Galway
- Ownagappul Cork
- Not in a catchment above

I consent to you storing my contact details and would like to receive correspondence about the **Pearl Mussel Project**.

Signature: _____

Data privacy statement: We will only use your details to inform you of project developments. Your information will be securely stored on our system. We will not share your email or details with any third parties.

Delivering Environmental Benefits

Healthy populations of freshwater pearl mussel are only found in near-pristine rivers with clean water and undisturbed river beds and channels. They are extremely sensitive to minor changes in river flow, nutrient inputs, and sediment inputs.

Their presence indicates a high quality environment that provides many services which benefit local communities and wider society. These benefits include clean water, flood and climate regulation, natural landscapes, and high levels of biodiversity.

The Pearl Mussel Project will work closely with local farmers in each area to develop positive farming practice that will help protect the endangered freshwater pearl mussel.

- **Maintaining buffer zones**
- **Maintain / restore riverside habitat**
- **Drain management**
- **Use of drinking troughs**
- **Reduced stocking rates**
- **Nutrient management planning**



Pearl Mussel Project

Farming for nature in a vibrant rural economy



The Pearl Mussel Project is an EIP (European Innovation Partnership) Locally Led Scheme. The Project is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as part of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.



About The Project



The Pearl Mussel Project is a locally-led, innovative, results-based scheme. Working with farmers in eight catchments, we are developing an agri-environmental scheme containing measures to conserve freshwater pearl mussel and support overall environmental health.

The Pearl Mussel Project is an opportunity for farmers to be recognised and rewarded for delivering environmental benefits. It will deliver an additional opportunity for farmers to earn an income from their land. It will also provide sustainable benefits for biodiversity and river ecosystems, while supporting a vibrant local rural economy.

Farmers get paid depending on the scores they achieve, with higher scores getting higher payments.

Pearl Mussel Project | Bell Height | Kenmare | County Kerry | V93 KD00 | Ireland

L: 064 6640685 M: 086 8510292

e-mail: Info@pmproject.ie
web: PearlMusselProject.ie
facebook: [Pearl Mussel Project](https://www.facebook.com/PearlMusselProject)

Eligible Areas

Farmers in the following eight river catchments are eligible for entry to the **Pearl Mussel Project** scheme:

- Blackwater, County Kerry
- Bundorragha, County Mayo
- Caragh, County Kerry
- Currane, County Kerry
- Dawros, County Galway
- Glaskeelan, County Donegal
- Owenriff, County Galway
- Ownagappul, County Cork

These catchments were selected for the scheme as they support the largest and healthiest freshwater pearl mussel populations remaining in Ireland. This makes these catchments a priority for conservation of the species. Visit our online map to check whether your lands occur within one of the catchments:

bit.ly/PMPcatchments



Freshwater Pearl Mussel – Key Facts

- Live in river bed amongst stable cobbles and gravel.
- Only occur in near-pristine river systems.
- Filter feeders – healthy populations help to keep our rivers clean.
- The pearl mussel is Ireland's longest-living animal, with some mussels over 140 years old!
- Complex life cycle dependent on salmon and / or trout.
- Ireland's populations are amongst the largest remaining in western Europe.
- Under threat of extinction in Western Europe. They are protected under EU and Irish Law making it illegal to harm or disturb them.
- Juvenile mussels are especially sensitive to changes in environmental conditions.
- All Irish populations are at risk of extinction unless action is taken.
- Pearl mussels get their name because some occasionally contain crude 'pearls', but these are of no commercial value.