

# How can you help?

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES



Find out where fan mussel populations are likely to be and act with caution.



Check for fan mussels before launching your gear.



In the event of extracting or overturning any specimen, please, report it to:  
SEPRONA 900 101 062  
CECOFOR 968 177 500

If you see any specimen, dead or alive, please, report it.



**Ecologistas en Acción Región Murciana:**  
[murcia@ecologistasenaccion.org](mailto:murcia@ecologistasenaccion.org)  
**CIMAR:** [cimar@ua.es](mailto:cimar@ua.es)  
**Red NACRAnet:**  
<http://nacranet.blogspot.com/>

*You, the fishermen, are part of the solution to save the species, know to value and protect to safeguard the future of the lagoon. The survival of the fan mussel in our waters is everyone's responsibility.*

*Pinna nobilis is declared critically endangered and the destruction, death, deterioration, collection or trade of fan mussels is punishable by fines of 100 € to 2.000.000 € according to articles 80 and 81 of Law 42/2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.*

# LIFE PINNARCA project

The main objective of *LIFE Pinnarca* is to avoid the extinction of *Pinna nobilis* in the short-medium term.

The population of the Mar Menor has been devastated, mainly due to the effects of eutrophication in the lagoon. If no measures are taken, the fan mussel populations in the environmental reservoirs will be reduced due to different anthropic pressures.

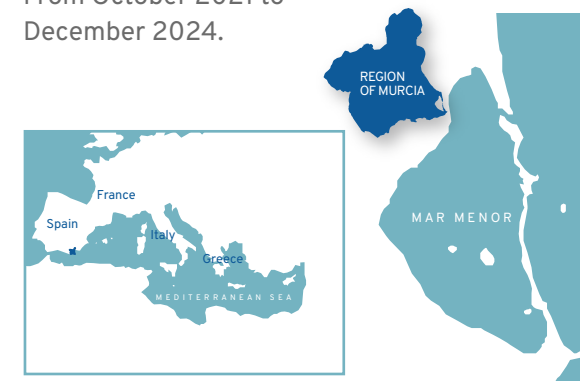
This project proposes to implement urgent measures within the framework of a collaborative consortium of experts to enable the implementation of coherent transboundary measures. The Mar Menor is one of the reservoirs hosting a target population.

The project focuses on three main lines of action:

- 1) Raise awareness of the critical status of the species and sensitize about its protection.
- 2) To gather all existing information on the surviving populations.
- 3) To develop actions for the restoration and ecological recovery of the remaining populations and their habitats.

## When and where?

From October 2021 to December 2024.



Universitat d'Alacant  
Universidad de Alicante



CSIC



IRTA



Universidad Católica de Valencia  
San Vicente Mártir



INSTITUT PAUL RICARD  
Océanographique



With the contribution of the LIFE programme, the European Union's financial instrument in support of projects in the fields of environment, nature conservation and climate action.

## What is it like?

*Pinna nobilis* is an endemic mollusc and the largest bivalve in the Mediterranean.

As an adult it is usually 80 cm long, although it can reach 120 cm, with a third of its length sunk into the substrate. It can live up to 50 years.

First described in 1983, it became widespread in the Mar Menor, occupying large areas, particularly on sandy bottoms and meadows of *Cymodocea nodosa* and *Caulerpa prolifera*.

It is now only found in Ebro Delta and Mar Menor.



*The survival of the population of the fan mussel population is associated with the recovery of the ecological status of the lagoon.*

Photo Javier Murcia



## Did you know that...?

It entered the Mar Menor years after the dredging and widening of the Estacio canal in the 70s of the last century.

It is considered to be an allochthonous species, however it has not caused any damage to the environment but helps to maintain the transparency of the lagoon's waters. It has been known since the Phoenicians to be used to make mother-of-pearl buttons and jewellery, and was appreciated for its thick shell.

The protruding golden "hairs" (the byssus thread) with which it is attached to the substrate were known as gold silk or marine silk, and were used to make delicate gloves and other fabrics in ancient times.

## Why does it disappear?

Disease caused by the parasite *Haplosporidium pinnae* has caused a massive die-off in recent years in the Mediterranean.

The lowering of the salinity of the lagoon waters: the entry of water through the increased connection with the Mediterranean through the gorges, proposed as a solution to eutrophication, endangers the scarce populations.

The eutrophication suffered by the lagoon since 2016 has led to the disappearance of 99% of the specimens.

From having more than one million fan mussels in the lagoon, there are barely 1,000 specimens left today. The survival of the fan mussel population is linked to the recovery of the ecological state of the lagoon.

*Fisherman, the most imminent danger we can control are the fishing nets, which can tear the fan mussel off from the bottom when they get hooked.*

