

LIFE PINNARCA

LIFE NAT/ES/001265



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PROTOCOL FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INDIVIDUALS IN
CAPTIVITY



RESPONSIBLE

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INDEX

Abstract	1
I. Protocol for the maintenance of <i>Pinna nobilis</i> individuals from the Mar Menor lagoon at the Aquarium of the University of Murcia.	2
1. Facilities for the maintenance of <i>Pinna nobilis</i>	2
1.1. Tank design.....	2
1.2. Water source.....	3
1.3. Filtration system.....	4
1.3.1. Mechanical filtration	4
1.3.2. Chemical filtration.....	5
1.3.3. Biological filtration	5
1.3.4. Germicidal filtration	5
1.4. Circulation of water in the tanks.....	7
1.5. Tank lighting	8
1.6. Temperature control elements	9
1.7. Substrate	9
2. Physico-chemical conditions	9
2.1. Temperature	10
2.2. Salinity	10
2.3. pH and alkalinity.....	11
2.4. Dissolved oxygen concentration	12
2.5. Other element levels.....	12
3. Collection of <i>Pinna nobilis</i> individuals.....	13
4. Placing specimens in tanks.....	15
4.1. Epibiont control.....	17

5. Food and feeding.....	17
5.1. Feeding adult <i>P. nobilis</i>	18
5.2. Feeding for breeders	21
5. Summary of recommendations.....	22
II. Protocol for maintenance of <i>Pinna nobilis</i> individuals in captivity at IMEDMAR-UCV	24
1. Conditioning of facilities: tanks and water circuit.....	24
2. Specimens receipt	27
3. Food and microalgae farming development.....	29
4. Control of the system.....	34
5. Evolution of physicochemical conditions	35
6. Disease onset, symptoms and trends in mortality.....	36
7. Identification of possible etiological agents associated with catastrophic pandemic.....	37
8. Maintenance of juveniles retrieved from collectors.....	38
III. Protocol for maintenance of <i>Pinna nobilis</i> individuals from the Thau Lagoon at the Institut Océanographique Paul Ricard (IOPR)	46
References.....	50

Abstract

Due to the high mortality of *Pinna nobilis*, the maintenance of this species under laboratory controlled conditions is considered a critical conservation strategy.

This document summarises the available information on protocols for the maintenance of *P. nobilis* individuals collected from three different environments: the Mar Menor lagoon (Murcia, SE Spain), the Delta del Ebro (Catalonia, NE Spain) and the Thau Lagoon (Languedoc-Roussillon region, France), and successfully maintained by three different institutions with their unique logistical and environmental conditions.

At the University of Murcia (UMU) Aquarium, *P. nobilis* specimens are obtained from the hyperhaline Mar Menor lagoon. Due to the inland location of the facilities, the species is kept in artificial seawater in closed systems.

The Institute of Environmental and Marine Research (IMEDMAR-UCV), on the other hand, has mainly collected individuals from the Ebro Delta, where salinities are generally lower than in the open sea. The location of their facilities means that natural seawater is readily available, allowing an open system design with an elevated seawater exchange.

Meanwhile, the Institut Océanographique Paul Ricard (IOPR) works with *P. nobilis* collected from the Thau lagoon and operates in a semi-closed water circuit adapted to the ecological conditions of the lagoon.

These variations ensure that protocols are adapted to the native habitats of the species and to the resources available at each institution, maximising the success of conservation efforts.

