How can you help?

If you find a fan mussel, approach it carefully and observe it without touching it!

Good practices for the public

Get to know this species to improve its survival.

Report sightings to:
Ecologistas en Acción Región Murciana:
murcia@ecologistasenaccion.org
CIMAR: *cimar@ua.es*
Red NACRAnet:
http://nacranet.blogspot.com/

Do not touch or bother the animals.

If you observe poaching or extractions, please, report it to:
SEPRONA 900 101 062
CECOFOR 968 177 500

Sailors and sport fishermen

Be careful when anchoring.

Be careful when moving through the water not to step on or hit them.

Diver

Do not touch or disturb animals.

Wash your equipment and clothes with fresh water if you come from areas of potential infection.

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.

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:

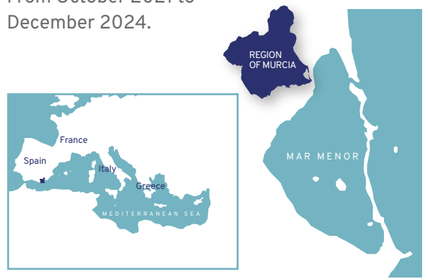
1) Raise awareness of the critical status of the species and sensitize about its protection.

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.



LIFE PINNARCA
https://www.lifepinnarca.com/

Universitat d'Alacant Universidad de Alicante · CSIC · IRTA · IMEDMAR · Universidad Católica de Valencia · INSTITUT PAUL RICARD OCEANOGRAPHIQUE

Life

NATURA 2000

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.

It is usually 80 cm long, although it can reach 120 cm.

It can live up to 50 years.

It can be found on sandy bottoms and meadows of *Cymodocea nodosa* and *Caulerpa prolifera.*

Fotografía Javier Murcia

Did you know that...?

It has been known since the Phoenicians to make mother-of-pearl buttons and jewelry out of 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.

Although this species appeared in the Mar Menor when salinity decreased sufficiently, after connectivity with the Mediterranean increased due to the construction of the Estacio canal, the fan mussel has integrated into the ecosystem, favoring the transparency of the waters. Until 2014, it is estimated that the lagoon population reached 1,700,000 specimens.

Why does it disappear?

Because of a parasitic disease caused by a protozoan species of the genus *Haplosporidium.*

In the Mar Menor, the eutrophication crisis in the lagoon, from 2016 to 2017, caused the disappearance of more than a million specimens. At present, the survivors are around 1,000.

More threats

The salinity of the lagoon protects it from the parasite, but the increasing connection with the Mediterranean through the gorges, proposed as a solution to eutrophication, exposes it to the disease.

Other risks in the lagoon are the fishing nets and anchoring elements that can break and pull the fan mussel off the bottom.

The survival of the fan mussel population is linked to the recovery of the ecological state of the lagoon.

It has been declared critically endangered.