

Pearl Mussel Project — Results-Based Payments for Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments (Ireland)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Ireland

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

A six-year, €10m EIP-AGRI results-based scheme paid roughly 450 farmers across Ireland's 'Top 8' freshwater pearl mussel catchments for measured habitat and water-quality scores, aiming to slow the decline of one of Europe's most endangered freshwater molluscs.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

[Pearl Mussel Project \(Ireland Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine — EIP-AGRI\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

[Pearl Mussel Project — Results-based approach](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

[Teagasc — Water Quality and the Freshwater Pearl Mussel](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

[Farmers Journal — Farmers reap the benefits of results-based Pearl Mussel Project](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

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