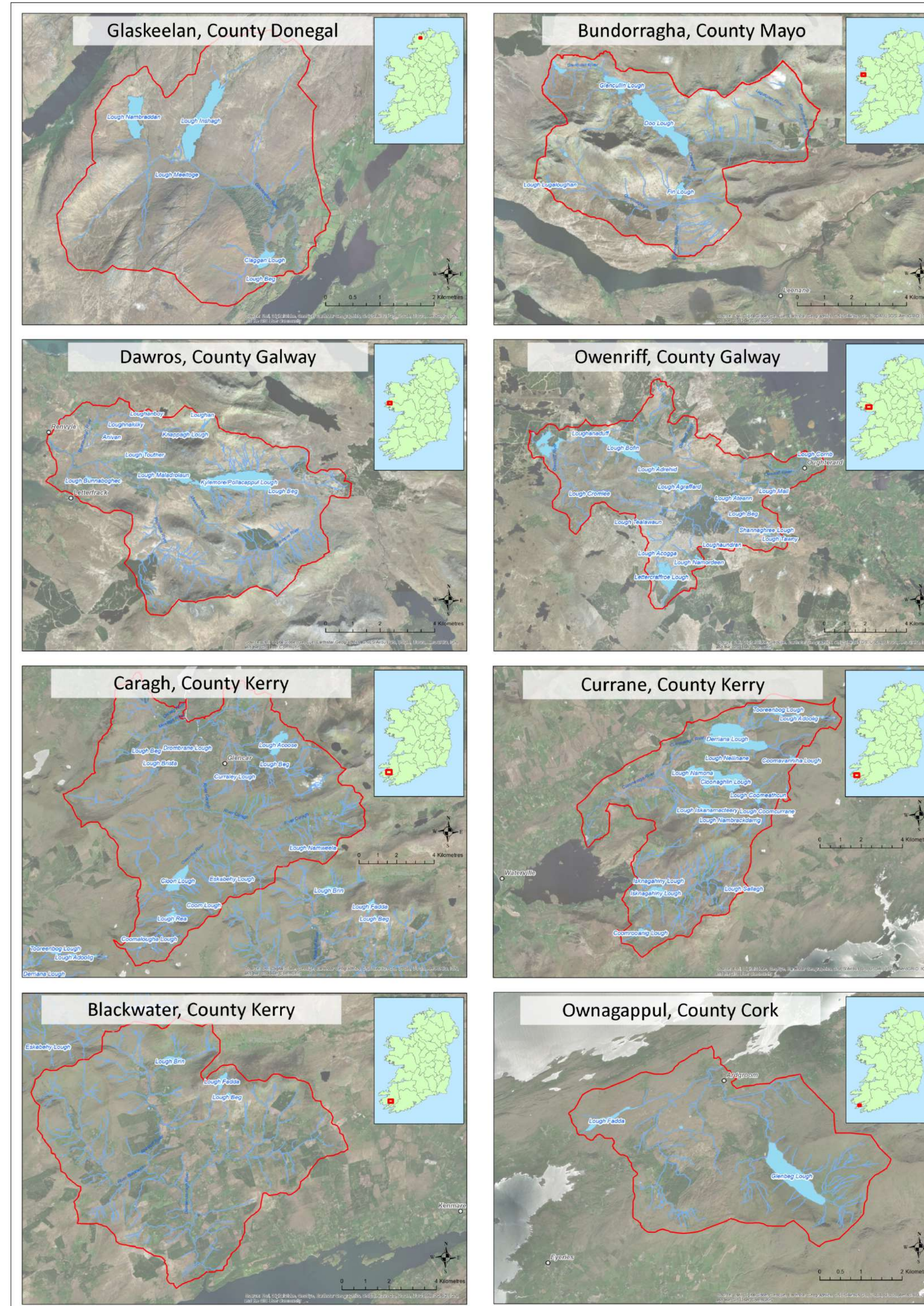


The Pearl Mussel Project is a locally led, innovative, results-based scheme. It provides farmers in eight catchments the opportunity to be rewarded for delivering environmental benefits. This is an additional payment opportunity, where the better the environmental achievement, the higher the payment for the farmer.

## Top 8 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments



## Farming and Freshwater Pearl Mussel

### Main pressures

- High nutrient input to river systems
- High sediment input to river systems
- Land drainage resulting in altered river flow
- Livestock access can cause trampling and nutrient inputs



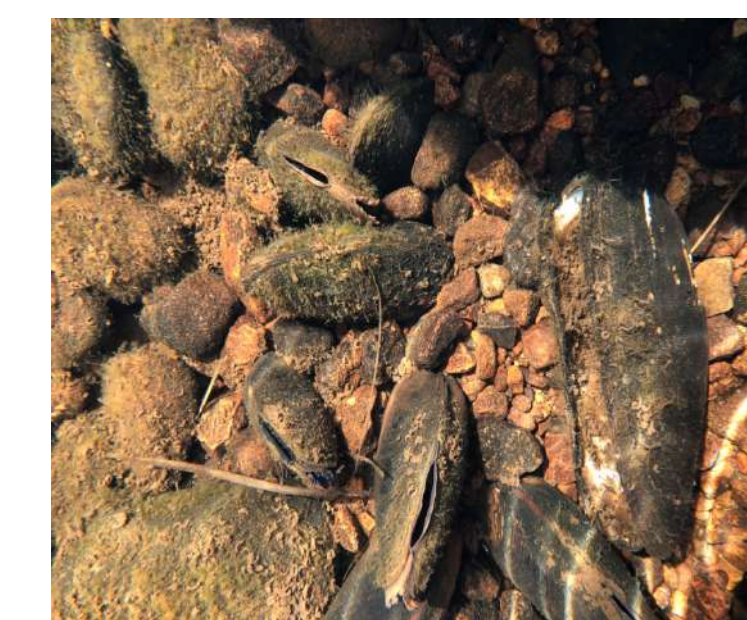
### Possible solutions

- ✓ Fencing and maintenance of buffer zones alongside rivers
- ✓ Maintaining / restoring riverside habitat
- ✓ Drain management
- ✓ Use of drinking troughs
- ✓ Reduced stocking rates
- ✓ Nutrient management planning

The Pearl Mussel Project is an EIP (European Innovation Partnership) Locally Led Scheme being administered by Pearl Mussel Project Ltd. The Project is funded by the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as part of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (Article 35(1) of Commission Regulation (EU) 1305/2013).

## Freshwater Pearl Mussel – Key Facts

- Live in river bed amongst stable cobbles and gravel
- Only occur in near pristine river systems
- Filter feeders – they help to keep our rivers clean
- Long lived - up to 140 yrs old!
- Complex lifecycle dependant on Salmon and / or Trout
- Under threat of extinction in Ireland and Western Europe
- Juvenile mussels are especially sensitive to environmental conditions
- Ireland's populations are amongst the largest remaining in western Europe
- Most Irish populations are at risk of extinction unless action is taken



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