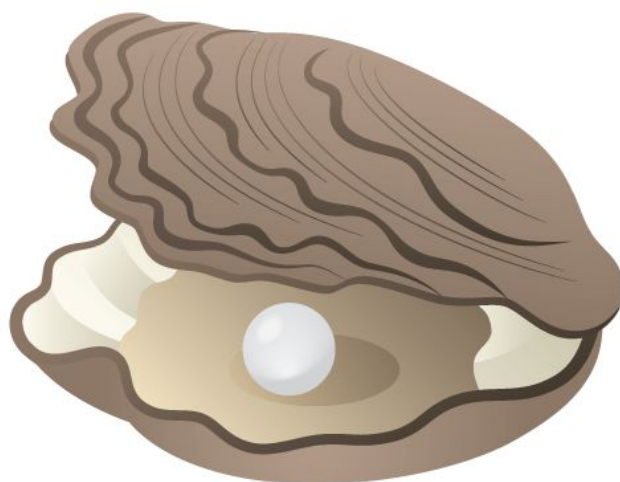


# Oyster with Pearl Emoji Submission

By Fred Benenson (of Emoji Dick Fame), with Emojination

July 17, 2017



*Credit: Aphelandra Messer. Image may be freely used in context of this proposal*

## Introduction

This proposal is to request inclusion of a new emoji as a Unicode character: OYSTER WITH PEARL emoji.

The oyster is a staple of human cuisines around the world, and oyster [middens](#) are some of the best evidence we have of early human civilizations depending on local diets. Pearls have been a decorative part of human cultures for millennia, and combining the two symbols could be a win-win: not only is a nearly-universal food item represented, but also the source of a well known piece of universal jewelry.

Today, oysters are enjoyed as local delicacies in almost every country with coasts – they are hearty creatures that can survive in polluted water and provide valuable

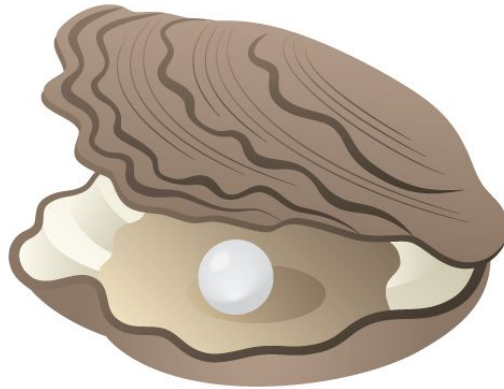
filtering for ecosystems. They provide a renewable source of protein at low environmental cost, and run the gamut in terms of culinary appeal – everything from fast food fish shacks to the most sophisticated restaurants offer them on their menu.

A pearl inside an oyster has even more symbolism, as it evokes imagery of nature's ability to create beautiful artifacts, as well the rarity with which pearls are found in the wild. Only about 1 in 10,000 oysters are likely to naturally generate pearls, and of those, very few generate pearls of the right quality for jewelry. Thus, an oyster with pearl emoji could function as a compliment akin to the phrase "diamond in the rough."

Several usages, meanings and idioms exist around oysters and pearls:

- Oysters & champagne: decadent seafood related celebration
- Pearls as jewels: evoking rarity and natural beauty
- "The world is your oyster" - Shakespeare

# Images



## Names

### Recommended Name

Oyster, Oyster with pearl

### Keywords

Mollusc, pearl, clam

## Selection Factors Inclusion

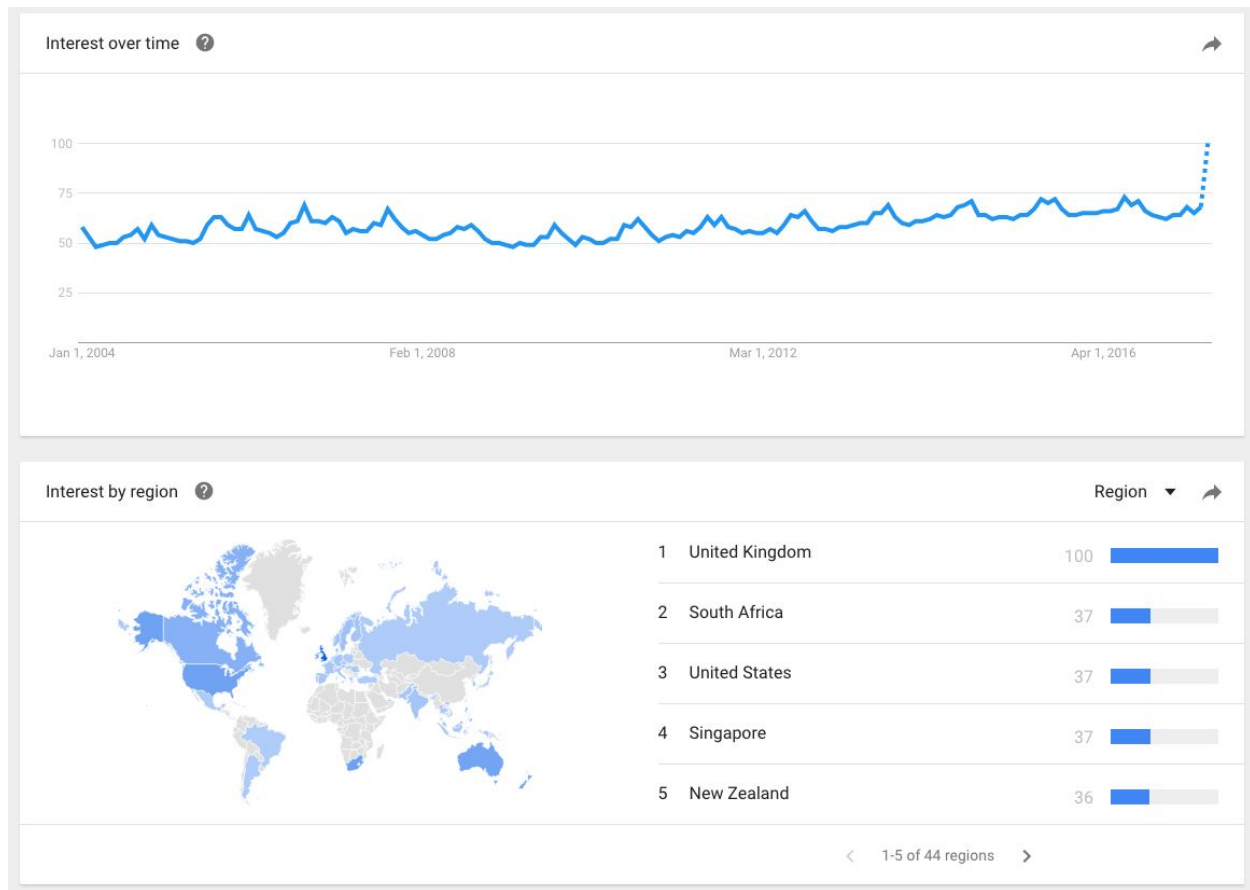
### Compatibility

This is a new emoji for inclusion in Unicode and then other systems. It will contribute to the various phrases and usages defined below.

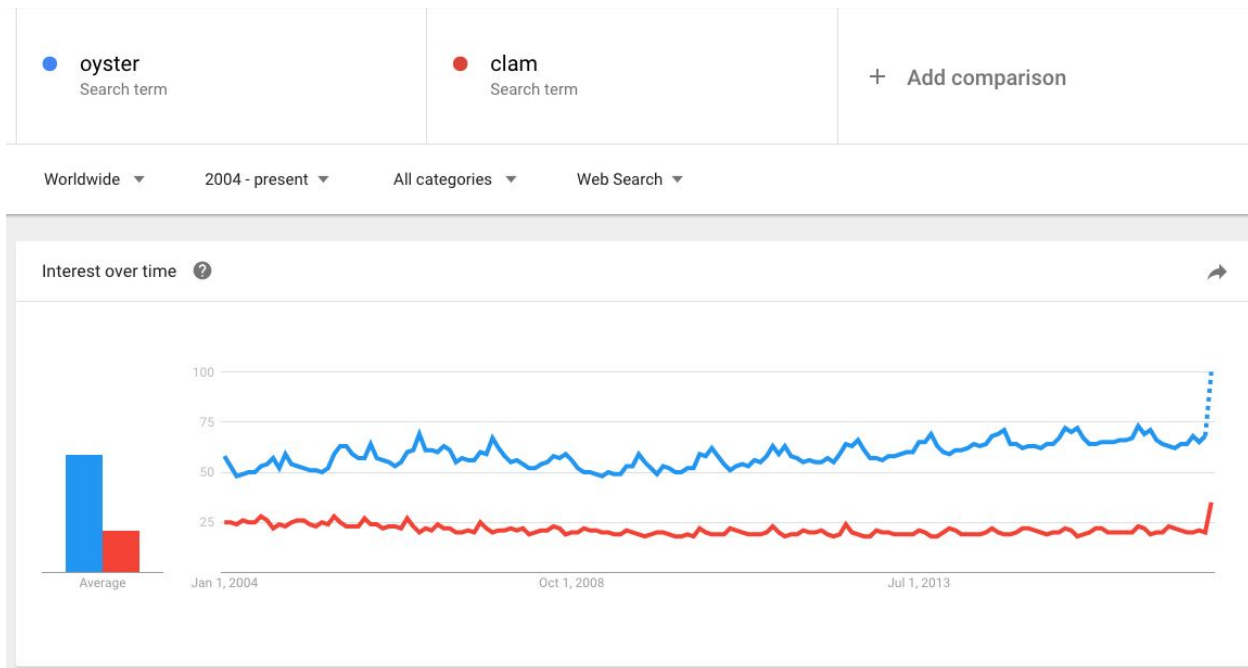
## Expected Usage Level

### Frequency

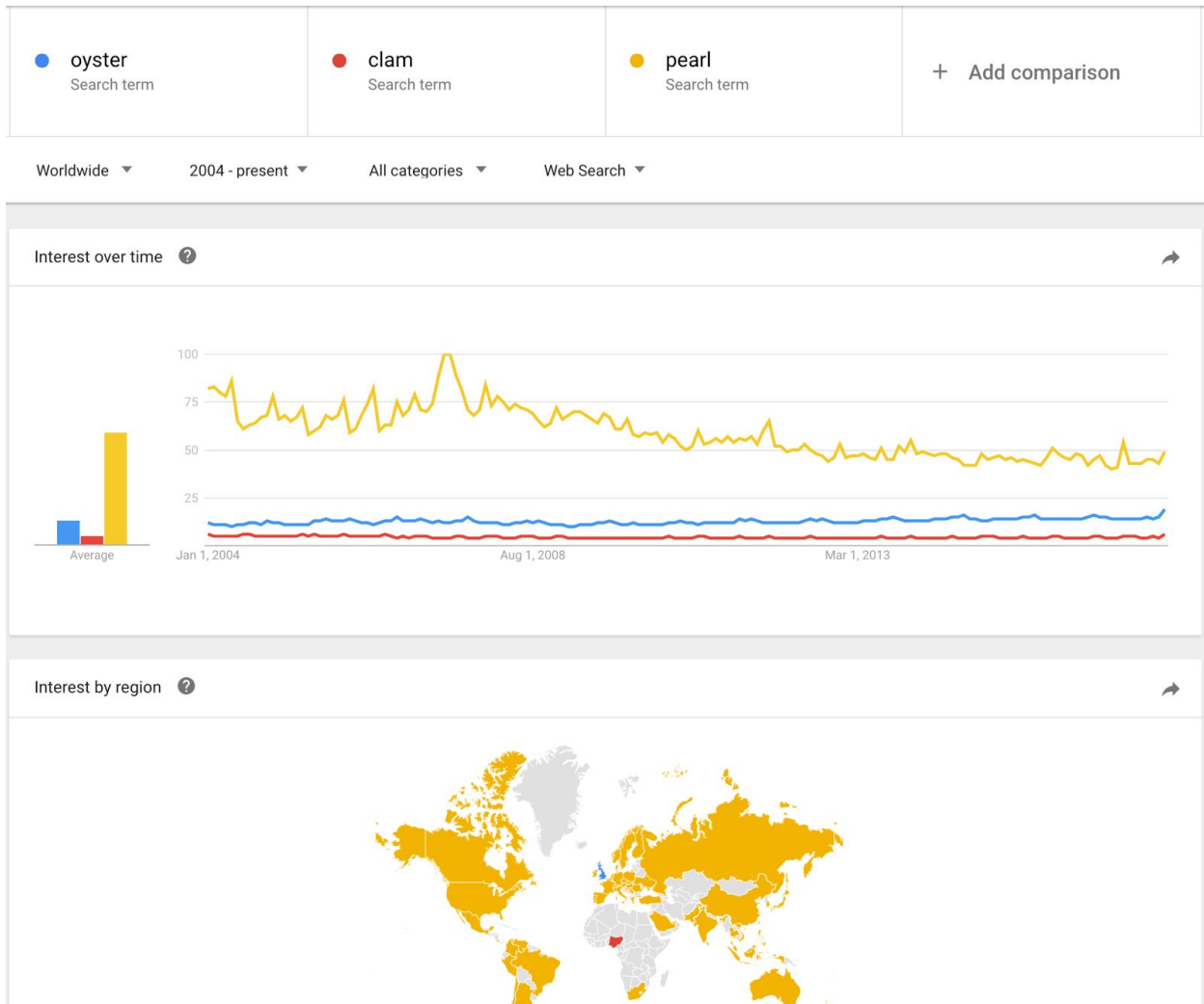
It's the proposer's expectation that the oyster with pearl emoji will have high and widespread global use. As can be seen from the Frequently Requested section below, people are using the phrase "oyster emoji" typed in full and would certainly use the emoji if available.



Oysters have seen gradual increase in interest over the last decades, but their recent spike in popularity in the UK is likely due to focus around the Oyster metrocard in the UK.



Oyster is a more popular term than “clam” the usage of which has been declining relative to “Oyster”.



Furthermore, “pearl” has been declining in usage while oyster has been slowly gaining relative popularity. Oyster with pearl can thus function as a way to bring together both clams and pearls into a single emoji.

## Multiple Usages

Aside from the obvious literal interpretations (oysters as food items, pearls as jewelry), oysters can be used in a number of contexts:

- Oysters have been scientifically established as aphrodisiacs and thus have light sexual connotations

- Oysters make pearls via natural irritation (i.e., through discomfort comes something of beauty)
- Oysters are ugly things that make something beautiful
- Oyster mushroom (a delectable culinary treat in its own right, easily derived with the :mushroom: emoji)
- Oyster White (a popular color for house paint)
- Vermeer's girl with pearl earring
- Barbara Bush's pearl necklace
- Women are given string of pearls as family heirlooms
- You're the oyster with the pearl
- Oyster card in UK
- A prairie oyster (or prairie cocktail) is a drink consisting of a raw egg, Worcestershire sauce, tomato juice, vinegar, hot sauce, salt and ground black pepper. The drink is typically served as a hangover cure.
- Rocky Mountain oysters: food made from animal testicles
- "As dumb as an oyster"

## Use in Sequences

The oyster with pearl emoji is a singular item and will work effectively by itself (i.e., it does not need any ZWJ modifiers).

## Image Distinctiveness

The oyster with pearl emoji is a highly distinctive visual symbol which will be recognizable by virtually any owner of a smartphone.

## Completeness

This will continue build out commonplace and daily items in the Nature part of emoji. It is not a direct part of a series such as Zodiac symbols.

## Frequently Requested

In a 2015 article, Emoji LINE, a brand publisher, posted a BuzzFeed article with the a subtitle “The world is your [oyster emoji]” despite not having an official Unicode oyster emoji:

**BuzzFeed**

[News](#)

[Videos](#)

[Quizzes](#)

[Tasty](#)

[More](#) 

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# These Are The 31 Emoji You Should Be Using Right Now

The world is your [oyster emoji].

Posted on June 18, 2015, at 3:23 p.m.

They do, however, include an oyster emoji in their in-app set:



## 9. The Oyster Emoji



**Use it to say:** "I can do anything."

In 2016, famous New York chef David Chang asked "Why is there no oyster emoji?" when linking to an article in his magazine Lucky Peach:



**David Chang** shared Lucky Peach's post.

April 14, 2016 · 🌐

why is there no oyster emoji?

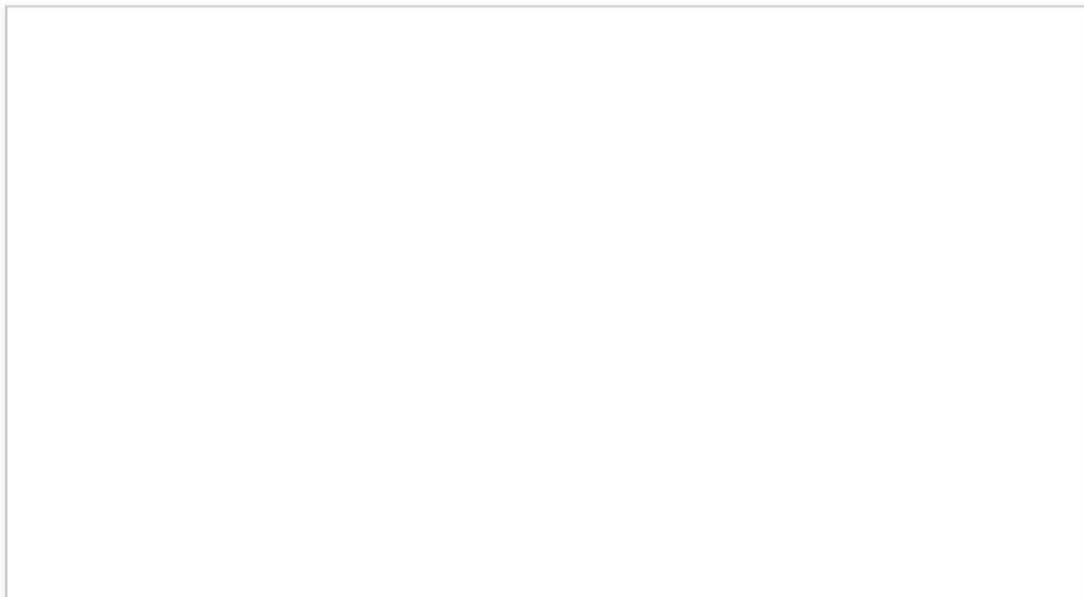


**Lucky Peach**

April 14, 2016 · 🌐

👍 Like Page

What's the difference between Atlantic and Pacific oysters? [Rowan Jacobsen](#) explains.



## A Clean, Well-Lighted Oyster Bar

Every oyster is a moment of stillness.

LUCKYPEACH.COM

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



👍 😂 ❤️ 81

[Top Comments](#) ▼

In addition, many people frequently request an Oyster emoji on Twitter, and occasionally define their own:





**Yola Ksiazczyk** @whey\_to\_go · Jun 2

There's no **oyster emoji**



**Nadine Robbins** @RobbinsNadine · Jun 1

An **oyster emoji** would be cool don't you think?



**Ennui Morricone** @JordanFallow · May 31

☀️☀️☀️ (still no **oyster emoji**) ☀️☀️☀️ @ Prospect Lefferts Gardens  
[instagram.com/p/BUxb\\_F1jqAx/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BUxb_F1jqAx/)



**meghan cali** @meghcali · May 24

i'm gonna need an **oyster emoji** for this roadtrip. gulf oysters at @easybistro in chattanooga @... [instagram.com/p/BUezi5uBQy5/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BUezi5uBQy5/)



**#JessFromTheUS** @JessicaJoyful79 · May 17

Replying to @oyster2017 @InMyFashionXo and 8 others

OH my god, I love you 😭😭😭 (why TF is there no **oyster emoji**)



**Stanford Court SF** @StanfordCourtSF · May 12

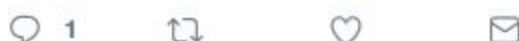
TGIF means bubbles and oysters (why is there no **oyster emoji**?!)  
Photo cred:@jsfashionista @... [instagram.com/p/BUBGQdhhPkC/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BUBGQdhhPkC/)



**Michael J. Glass** @Michael\_J\_Glass · May 3

Replying to @Michael\_J\_Glass @name\_janemorrow

I couldn't find an **oyster emoji**



**Alexandra M. Dionne** @dionnealexandra · Apr 28

Where's the **oyster emoji**!?! I'm outraged



Slack and 10 others follow



**Jacqueline Church** @JCCraves · Feb 11

Replying to @ThePatrickRollo

I love it. #DTX is changing! 🌟🛒🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷 WHERE IS OUR **OYSTER EMOJI**

💬 ↺️ ❤️ 1 ✉️

Sean Wieland follows



**Jenn Q** @jennqofficial · Feb 8

They need an **oyster emoji**

💬 ↺️ ❤️ 5 ✉️



**Chi McClean** @chimcclean · Feb 7

Replying to @TahoeBT

I thoroughly enjoyed my stay @TahoeBT tonigh during #FATuesday - those #BBQ oysters rule! So good... 🍷😎 (no **oyster emoji**)

💬 1 ↺️ 1 ❤️ 2 ✉️



**ârieL** ✨ @aribellaaa · Feb 6

Replying to @hansicaza

but why do we always come up with lists of 4692974892 possibilities and there's not even an **oyster emoji**

💬 ↺️ ❤️ 1 ✉️

Akilah Hughes and 1 other follow



**Birdcloud** @birdcloudusa · Feb 2

Wish there was a jager bomb emoji and an **oyster emoji** and a tampon emoji

💬 4 ↺️ 6 ❤️ 37 ✉️

Susan Bennett follows



**Scarlett Jane** @chrystine23 · Jan 27

i CANT find any **oYster emoji**...!! 🤔

💬 ↺️ ❤️ ✉️



**joanarochelle** @joanaliun · Jan 27

Suddenly i want OCHIEN ( **oyster emoji** )

💬 ↺️ ❤️ ✉️



**Mandy** @AmandaxBoyd · Jan 22

can we get an **oyster emoji**?

💬 ↺️ ❤️ 1 ✉️

# Counterarguments to Factors for Exclusion

## Overly Specific

The oyster with pearl emoji is not overly specific and can be used in a number of contexts through its use in numerous phrases, ideas, and concepts.

It can be used to represent food (oysters), jewelry (pearls), as an analogy (beauty in nature, rarity), or as an metaphor (“The world is your oyster.”)

## Open Ended

The oyster is not one just one of many items within a set; it is distinct and doesn’t open up a direct open-ended set of related symbols.

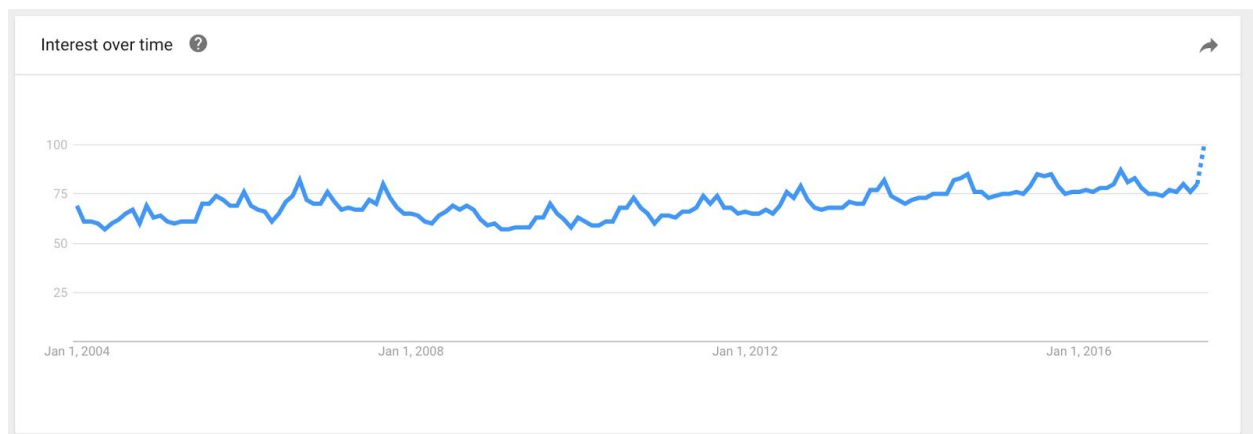
## Already Representable

The oyster and pearl emoji cannot be easily representable given current emoji. The closest option to an oyster emoji may be 🐚 (Spiral Shell Emoji) and ○ (Medium White Circle Emoji) might be used for a pearl, but neither can properly substitute for a food item.

## Transient

Neither oysters nor pearls are transient symbols in culture.

Oysters have been part of human diets since the dawn of time, and pearls have been found in jewelry just as long.



This Google trends data shows the consistency in interest of online users since 2004. Beginning in 2008, interest in “oyster” has begun climbing (with some interesting seasonality) and it is expected that this will continue well into the foreseeable future.

## Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The oyster with pearl emoji has only coincidental associations with any specific logos, brands, UI, icons, signage, people or deities. The only realistic comparison might be to the Oyster Card in the UK, but this is likely to increase its usage – since the Oyster Card is commonplace in civic life in London,

Generally, oysters and pearls are commonplace items that are universally recognizable and unlikely to be associated with any particular stigma or brand.

## Faulty Comparison

The submission for the oyster with pearl emoji is one made on its own merits; in line with the Unicode selection factors for inclusion (above) and that it avoids the factors for exclusion (also above).

No case is made that the oyster with pearl emoji should be included due to other emojis; emoji patterns; or due to comparison to others.

## Sort location

## Category

The proposer suggests the oyster with pearl emoji be inserted next to the nature category.

## Emoji Before

Ideally the oyster with pearl emoji would go next to the other sea creature emoji (crab, squid octopus).

## Proposer:

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