



“Restoration of the Lower Shannon SAC (Mulkear River) for Sea Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon and the European Otter”

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## Press Release

6th January 2014

### A Wet Start to the New Year 2014

It has been an extremely wet start to 2014. Winter storms have raged for days and ravaged coastal communities. The combination of high tides, gale force winds and massive seas have wreaked havoc in coastal areas, especially in counties Clare, Galway and Kerry.

Thankfully, the stormy conditions have not been so severe in the Mulkear catchment. The last two days of 2013 saw massive floods throughout the Mulkear system. This flooding, which was accompanied by stormy weather and strong winds, has eased to some extent, in the first 6 days of the New Year.



**Elevated water levels on the Mulkear River, Jan 2014 (Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir)**

With widespread storm damage caused in coastal communities throughout Ireland in the first days of 2014 it was inevitable that the storms would bring down trees in the Mulkear catchment also.

This is the case and large mature trees have fallen into rivers from along river banks throughout the Mulkear catchment. These have collected at various bridges and will either move on their own accord over the next number of weeks or will be removed.

As we enter into the New Year, MulkearLIFE looks forward to calmer weather and normal water levels in 2014.

#### Notes for Editors

1. High Resolution Digital Images are available to accompany this Press Release.
2. Interviews can be arranged with the Project Manager by using the contact details below.
3. MulkearLIFE is a new €1.75 million European Commission funded LIFE Nature project working on the restoration of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (with a focus on the Mulkear River catchment) for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and European Otter. Further details may be viewed on the project website [www.mulkearlifeproject.com](http://www.mulkearlifeproject.com)
4. Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick) is lead partner together with the OPW and Limerick County Council. Additional funding support comes from National Parks and Wildlife Service. Other supporters include Teagasc, IFA, ICMSA, and local angling groups.
5. The project is one of the first and most important integrated catchment management projects in Ireland. It is a flagship EU LIFE Nature project –covering some 650 sq km which contain a variety of habitats and protected species. Much of the area is designated as a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive and forms part of the Natura 2000 Network.

#### Issued by:

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#### Storm waves crash into Lahinch, Co. Clare, January 2014 (Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

