



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

Press Release

9th June 2014

Otter Training & Catchment Wide Survey June 2014

The 5th Annual Catchment Wide Otter Survey will take place on Friday 20 June & Saturday, 21 June 2014. These are different dates from the dates advertised in the annual calendar of events in January 2014.

For those interested in taking part in this year's otter survey work, please note that there will be an otter training workshop on Thursday evening 19 June 2014 @ 18.00hrs in the Inland Fisheries Ireland offices on the Dock Rd., Limerick.

Full directions to the office available [here](#): Please note, given that it is evening time, it should be fine to park at the front (Dock Rd) or at the back (Ashbourne Business Park) of the building.



Otter Survey Work (Image – John Murphy)

The otter training will last approximately one and half hours in the office and one hour out on site – please **Bring Rain Gear and Appropriate Boots. A walking stick or pole would also be useful in the water.** This training will act as a short training course / refresher course and will review MulkearLIFE's work with otter and the survey recording format. The workshop will focus on deciphering the evidence of otter (&

mink); namely prints, otter spraint and other evidence together with the survey recording format and approach to be used. It will included a discussion on otter spraints.



Otter field training for MCV members 2011 (Image – Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

The actual catchment wide otter survey will take place on **Friday 20th June & Saturday, 21st June 2012**. The meeting point is Annacotty, Mill Bar Car Park at 10am sharp. Other meeting points will be decided at the training evening for those higher up in the catchment. Mulkear Conservation Volunteers and others with an interest in this work are invited to be part of the workshop and either of the two days surveying or indeed both days.

Over 80 sites will be included in the survey covering the entire catchment of 650sq Km. The sites will include the following rivers, tributaries and streams: Mulkear, Bilboa, Dead, Newport, Killeengarrif, Clare, Annagh, Reask, Pope's, Cauten, Cahernahallia, Dooglasha, Small, Cully, Ahboy and Glaiscluainarbhaoile. Other smaller streams will also be included. The vast majority of sites are under bridges, with other sites located along river banks, at weirs, fords, culverts or along drainage channels.

Only those who have been on the training course / refresher course or those who have been part of previous surveys will be in a position to partake in the Catchment Wide Otter Survey.



Survey work June 2011, MCV member Catherine Daly (Image – Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

There are significant reports on European Otter on the MulkearLIFE website in the [‘Reports & Resources’](#) section:

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
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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