



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

Press Release

12th September 2014

Summary – MulkearLIFE End of Project Conference

MulkearLIFE’s End of Project conference took place in Castleconnell on the banks of the River Shannon this week (10th & 11th September 2014). The two-day international conference ‘Celebrating River Restoration in Ireland and Europe’ was hosted by the project’s coordinating beneficiary Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and was attended by a large number of local, national and international delegates.



Some of the local, national and international delegates at the IFI MulkearLIFE conference

The conference was opened by Dr. Ciaran Byrne, CEO of Inland Fisheries Ireland and Ms. Amanda Mooney, Director of the Shannon RBD, welcomed guests to the Lower Shannon.



Dr. Cathal Gallagher, Dr. Ciaran Byrne (CEO of Inland Fisheries Ireland) and Ms. Amanda Mooney at MulkearLIFE's End of Project Conference

Also in the conference's opening session, Professor Martin O' Grady gave a wonderful keynote address, reflecting on 30 years of river restoration work in Ireland. Mr. Ruairí Ó Conchúir (MulkearLIFE's Manager) then presented an overview of project's river restoration work.



Prof. Martin O' Grady and Mr. Ruairí Ó Conchúir discuss the conference programme



Mr. John Sheehan, outlines Limerick Council's work with MulkearLIFE

The conference concluded yesterday (Thursday 11th Sept) with a half-day field trip to various sites in the Mulkear River Catchment, including sites on the Mulkear, Newport, Clare and Bilboa river. Thankfully the field trip took place on the most spectacular of Autumn day – a real Indian Summer day.

MulkearLIFE would like to thank all who attended and regrets that members of the Limerick & District Anglers Association did not wish to do so. A full conference report will follow in due course.



Dr. Dennis Doherty (ESB Fisheries Conservation) presenting at the conference



Some of the local, national and international delegates at MulkearLIFE's conference



Mr. Oisín Naughton (IFI) presenting at the conference

The field trips took place on the afternoon of day two and delegates saw the Mulkear Catchment looking its most beautiful in glorious Autumn sunshine.



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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