



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

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## Press Release

1<sup>st</sup> August 2012

### MulkearLIFE's Heritage Week Events 2012

MulkearLIFE is delighted to announce details of the three events it will host during Heritage Week 2012, which takes place nationwide from Saturday 18th – Sunday 26th August. The week is co-ordinated by the Heritage Council in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. It is part of European Heritage Days, celebrated in over 49 countries across Europe. The majority of events throughout the week are free to attend and with over 1,600 registered events there is something for everyone. The National Heritage Week Event Guide is available free throughout the country in Fáilte Ireland Tourist Offices, Libraries, OPW Sites, Bus Eireann Stations, County Council Offices etc.

The first event being hosted by MulkearLIFE is a field trip entitled ‘The Magical Mulkear: A Field Trip Of Discovery’. This free event, for which pre-booking is required, will take place on Saturday, 18 August 2012. It promises to be a very enjoyable day and will involve a bus excursion to visit a range of exciting sites throughout the catchment. The field trip will focus on the rich biodiversity of the Mulkear catchment (from source to mouth) and some walking will take place to access sites.

The work of MulkearLIFE / Inland Fisheries Ireland and its main project partners, the OPW and Limerick County Council, to restore habitats in the Mulkear catchment will be reviewed. The field trip will also include a review of conservation work undertaken by the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers over the past year.

The event is suitable for children and adults alike. Places on this field trip are limited and pre-booking is required (Tel. 061 300 238 or e-mail [info@mulkearlifecom](mailto:info@mulkearlifecom)). The bus will depart the Mill Bar Car Park, Annacotty @ 09.30hrs returning 15.00hrs.

The second event, which is subject to cancellation if the river is in flood, will involve an early morning start on Monday, 20th August at 07.00hrs (yes that’s 7am) and will last approximately two hours. The event is entitled Exploring Sea Lamprey Passage and Biodiversity in the Mulkear Catchment. The meeting point is the car park area of Annacotty Weir (next to the Mill Bar). The event, which is open to young and old, will review the extraordinary story of the sea lamprey life cycle, their migration and upstream passage into the Lower Shannon SAC and Mulkear River.

The early morning start at 7am (on site) is required in order to view Sea Lamprey pass over Annacotty Weir. The outing will review on site the work of MulkearLIFE to ease upstream passage for Sea Lamprey. This work is of significant importance in terms of sea lamprey conservation.

The outing will also examine the rich biodiversity of the Mulkear at Annacotty and a limited amount of walking will be involved. If the river is in flood the event may be cancelled. Please review this website closer to the date.

The third and final event will also be a field outing, entitled ‘Exploring biodiversity in the Upper Bilboa and Kilcommon, Co. Tipperary’. It will take place on Thursday, 23 August at 12 midday and will last approximately two hours. The meeting point is the car park area of the Square in Kilcommon village, Co. Tipperary. The event, which is open to all but may be of particular interest to younger children, will review the extraordinary rich biodiversity found

in and along the Upper Bilboa at Kilcommon. The field outing will examine a range of issues including local wildlife, instream biodiversity, the importance of riparian habitats (riverbank habitats) and local woodlands.

The picnic area in the village is also a survey site in MulkearLIFE's annual RAS Survey for Otter. So the event will reveal the presence or otherwise of otter in Kilcommon. The outing will also review the work of MulkearLIFE and its project partners to protect and enhance habitats. A limited amount of walking will be involved.

All events are free of charge and open to all. Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing.

For full details of these events and all other events taking place throughout Ireland as part of Heritage Week 2012 website: [Heritage Week 2012](#)

#### 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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