



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

Press Release

1st January 2013

Ireland, the EU and LIFE

Today, 1st January 2013, marks the start of another year of work for MulkearLIFE. It is also an important date for Ireland and its relationship with the EU. The Presidency of the Council of the EU rotates among Member States every six months. For the first half of 2013, Ireland will hold the Presidency. This will be the 7th time Ireland will have held this important position to guide work and policy priorities among Member States. Economic stability, growth and jobs are Ireland's priorities for the next 6 months.

In addition Ireland will also stress the environment, transport, new countries joining the EU, justice and support for development. On 1 July, Ireland will hand over to Lithuania, who will hold the presidency until the end of 2013.

While 2012 was an important year marking the 20th Anniversary of the LIFE programme, 2013 is equally important for Ireland as it marks the 40th anniversary of Ireland's joining the EU.

MulkearLIFE looks forward to a busy work schedule in 2013. The year will include a number of special events to mark Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the EU and the 40th anniversary of Ireland joining the EU.

During 2013, the EC LIFE Programme will publish a new call for LIFE+ proposals with hundreds of millions of euro available for co-financing of projects across Europe including Ireland. Funding will again be made available under Nature and Biodiversity; Environment Policy and Governance; and Information and Communication.

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.

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