



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

Press Release

1st March 2010

Launch of Mulkear LIFE Sister Project: Control of Aquatic Invasive Species in Ireland (CAISIE)

The Mulkear LIFE project team and the Assistant CEO of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board had an opportunity this week to attend the launch of the European Commission LIFE Nature Project ‘Control of Aquatic Invasive Species in Ireland – CAISIE’. The Central Fisheries Board secured funding support from the European Commission’s LIFE+ Nature programme and also from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to control and eradicate invasive species in Lough Corrib, the Grand Canal and in the Barrow Navigation line. Minister of State Conor Lenihan TD, performed the official launch in the European Commission’s Office in Dublin. The Mulkear LIFE team were delighted to be in a position to meet with all the key stakeholders involved in the CAISIE project.

At the launch it was highlighted that aquatic invasive species are a major threat to biodiversity in Irish freshwaters. It was noted that they will continue to increase unless effective eradication and control methods are developed. The CAISIE LIFE project will focus its 4 year work programme on researching and implementing various approaches and methodologies to control and eradicate aquatic invasive plant species in a targeted manner. It will also undertake a marketing campaign to increase awareness and stakeholder engagement. During the launch Minister of State, Conor Lenihan TD, noted that “this is a matter of considerable importance to the inland fisheries resource and this project, funded by the EU, brings together a number of State bodies to work together in the control of aquatic invasive species in Ireland.”

Mulkear LIFE is greatly looking forward to working closely with the CAISIE project over the next number of years. The two LIFE projects are in a position to share practical experience on how best to stop and reverse the damage caused by invasive exotics plants and share approaches on how best to restore the natural riparian zone to prevent re-colonisation.

Anyone wishing to get further information on the work of CAISIE can visit the project website www.caisie.ie or e-mail info@caisie.ie or telephone 01 8842 600. Anyone wishing to get further information on the work of Mulkear LIFE can visit the project website www.mulkearLIFE.com or e-mail info@mulkearlifec.com or telephone 061 300 238.

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. Shannon Regional Fisheries Board 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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