



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

Press Release

1st May 2012

Launch of Leave No Trace (Ireland) online teaching resource

MulkearLIFE was delighted to attend the official launch of the new Leave No Trace (Ireland) online teaching resource for primary schools by Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. The resource is designed to help and support primary school teachers share the Leave No Trace message of caring for the environment.

At the launch in Larragh, Co. Wicklow, Minister Hogan noted that by becoming Leave No Trace ‘Champions’, primary school pupils will learn life-long lessons that will enhance their respect, appreciation and enjoyment of our countryside. Minister Hogan encouraged all primary schools to take up the Leave No Trace challenge.

MulkearLIFE would like to congratulate all involved in the development of the wonderful resource Leave No Trace Schools which will greatly assist the project in its work with schools throughout the Mulkear catchment. To date MulkearLIFE has undertaken Leave No Trace awareness training sessions with well over 1,000 school children as part of its Environmental Education Programme. This has included a presentation in class and a practical field trip where the seven principles of Leave No Trace are unpacked by the school children on site.

The launch was preceded by an extremely interesting workshop which Leave No Trace Ireland organised. It was attended by a wide range of delegates from a variety of organisations engaged with outdoor recreation. Delegates included those from Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Angling Council of Ireland, Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government, Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaelteacht, Coillte, Invasive Species Ireland, An Taisce, BirdWatch Ireland and the Countryside Council of Wales all of whom support or have supported the work of MulkearLIFE. The workshop was concerned with ‘Communicating the message for successful behaviour change’ and very interestingly aquatic invasive species was a major discussion item.

The event also offered MulkearLIFE the opportunity to update the various dignitaries, including Fine Gael MEP, Mairead McGuinness, on the work of MulkearLIFE and the project’s plans to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the EC LIFE Programme [LIFE @ 20](#).

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:

Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Project Manager – MulkearLIFE
Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick Office)
Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick
Tel: 061 300 238 / Fax: 061 300 308 / Mob: 087 062 5582
E-mail: info@mulkearlif.com
Web: www.mulkearlif.com / www.inlandfisheries.ie

