



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

Press Release

1st November 2010

Project Partners Meet Minister

The partners involved in the delivery of MulkearLIFE had an opportunity to brief the Minister of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Mr. John Gormley TD, on his recent official visit to the project. During the visit the Minister was given a detailed illustrated PowerPoint presentation on the project achievements to date. He was briefed on the ongoing work being undertaken by Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Office of Public Works and Limerick County Council to restore the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (Mulkear River catchment) for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and Otter. Each of the project partners had an opportunity to brief the minister on the specific actions each were undertaking to implement practical, cost effective, sustainable measures on the ground. In addition, Minister Gormley was briefed on site during his visit to Annacotty weir on the work being undertaken to ease sea lamprey passage. The results of the MulkearLIFE's radio tagging of sea lamprey in the summer of 2010 were outlined to the Minister and plans for passage easement at Annacotty and Ballyclough weirs were outlined to the Minister.

The Minister was also briefed by members of MulkearLIFE's Project Advisory Group. This included the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) representative, Mr. David Thompson, who expressed the support of the local farming community and the support of the Mulkear angling community to the work of the project.

The Minister in turn expressed his delight as to the progress achieved by MulkearLIFE and the various project partners. He committed his own department, via the National Parks and Wildlife Service who are significant co-financers of the project, to the tune of €160,000, to the ongoing work of MulkearLIFE and wished all involved in the project ongoing success.

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.mulkearlife.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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