



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

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## Press Release

11<sup>th</sup> August 2011

### Heritage Week Events

Following the success of last year's events, MulkearLIFE is delighted to announce details of three events it will host during Heritage Week, which takes place from the 20 to 28 August 2011.

The first event will be a field outing, entitled 'Exploring Sea Lamprey Passage and Biodiversity in the Mulkear Catchment'. It will take place on Monday, 22 August at 12 midday and will last approximately two hours. The meeting point for the event 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 outing will review on site the work of MulkearLIFE to ease upstream passage for Sea Lamprey. This groundbreaking work is of significant national and international 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.

The second event will also be a field outing, entitled 'Exploring biodiversity in and along the Mulkear River'. It will take place on Thursday, 25 August at 12 midday and will last approximately two hours. The meeting point is the car park area of Annacotty Weir (next to the Mill Bar). 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 Mulkear River at Annacotty. The field outing will examine a range of issues including instream biodiversity, the importance of riparian habitats (riverbank habitats) and local woodlands. The outing will also review the work of MulkearLIFE and its project partners to protect and enhance habitat for Atlantic Salmon, Otter and Sea Lamprey and outline the project's work to address invasive plant species. A limited amount of walking will be involved.

The final event being hosted by MulkearLIFE is a half-day field trip entitled 'The Magical Mulkear: A Field Trip Of Discovery'. This event, for which pre-booking is required, will take place on Saturday, 27 August 2011. 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 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.

Places on this field trip are limited and pre-booking is required (Tel. 061 300 238 or e-mail [ruairi@mulkearlifec.com](mailto:ruairi@mulkearlifec.com)).

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 please see: [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

## 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](http://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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