



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

Press Release

14th August 2012

Summer Floods Return to the Mulkear

Following a relatively dry week, weather conditions broke on Saturday (11th August) and the deluge continued on Sunday last (12th August). As a result, the Mulkear River and its tributaries, including the Bilboa, Dead and Newport Rivers, have again witnessed summer flood events. The outlook for the week is very unsettled with heavy and persistent rain forecasted from midweek onwards.

The poor weather conditions have impacted very negatively on farming in the Mulkear catchment. Farmers have faced great difficulties in getting silage cut and in bringing in bales from the land in certain parts of the catchment. Many farmers have been forced feed indoors yet again in the month on August following a very poor June and July. This has increased costs considerably, and coupled with severe difficulties in saving silage, has made it an extremely difficult year for farming throughout the Mulkear catchment.

This week's floods are the first significant floods for August 2012 but follow near constant flood conditions throughout much of June 2012 and significant parts of July 2012. The flood conditions have not only been confined to the Lower Mulkear but many rivers in the upper catchment have also experienced significant flood events.

The floods have severely curtailed MulkearLIFE work this summer. Instream works have been suspended on the Mulkear and works on the Clare Annagh and Newport Rivers have not yet commenced almost six weeks behind schedule. The potential for additional disruption for the remainder of August is a real cause of concern to the Project and the OPW and Limerick County Council.

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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