



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

Press Release

16th March 2012

MulkearLIFE host UCC staff and students

MulkearLIFE was delighted to have an opportunity earlier this week to host staff and students from University College Cork (UCC) for a field trip to the Mulkear catchment.

MulkearLIFE facilitated UCC with a detailed presentation on the objectives and programme of work of MulkearLIFE in the IFI Officers on the Dock Rd. This outlined the considerable achievements of the project to date and gave an overview of European Commission LIFE+ funding and the options for funding that exist under LIFE+ programme. A discussion also took place regarding MulkearLIFE's plans for instream works in 2012 and events to mark the 20th Anniversary of the EC LIFE programme right across Europe including the project's amateur photo which the UCC students were invited to enter. The presentation was of great interest and relevance to the staff and students of UCC. They were particularly interested in MulkearLIFE's approach to addressing sea lamprey passage at Annacotty weir and elsewhere to help the rare sea lamprey on their upstream migration to their spawning beds in the upper reaches of the Mulkear catchment.

Following the presentation a field trip was undertaken to various sites throughout the Mulkear catchment, including the weir at Annacotty, the Clare / Annagh River and the Upper Newport River. The work of the project in addressing sea lamprey passage was discussed, as was the project's work in addressing the ongoing problem of invasives weeds. The work of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers on the control of Himalayan Balsam below Annacotty weir was outlined. The use of the site in MulkearLIFE's Environmental Education Work with local schools was also discussed, as was the great importance the project attaches to this work. The ongoing work of MulkearLIFE in conjunction with Limerick County Council and the Annacotty Tidy Towns Committee was also outlined to the visitors. Of particular interest to the students was MulkearLIFE's work with otter. Very interesting discussions took place on site.

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.mulkearlifecom
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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