



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

## Press Release

16<sup>th</sup> September 2011

### MulkearLIFE to attend National Ploughing Championship

MulkearLIFE / Inland Fisheries Ireland is delighted to be in a position to attend the National Ploughing Championship, which will take place in Cardenton, near Athy in Co. Kildare from Tuesday 20th September to Thursday 22nd September. MulkearLIFE is being very kindly hosted in the marquee of the European Union courtesy of the European Commission Representation in Ireland. Please call in to learn more about the project – Row H Stand No. 223.

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the National Ploughing Championship and special events are planned. Upwards of 180,000 visitors are expected over the three days. MulkearLIFE will be present on the opening day, Tuesday 20th September, and will be on hand to outline the work of project as a EC funded LIFE+ project. It should be noted that 50% of MulkearLIFE’s overall budget of €1.75million comes directly from the EC.

A short illustrated PowerPoint presentation will also be given at lunch-time on ‘Becoming A Conservation Volunteer: Volunteering for Nature’. This will outline the extremely important work being undertaken by the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers in support of the work of the project.

Separately, EC experts will also be available to answer technical questions on a range of areas and staff from the Joint Research Centre will be present to showcase the scientific research it carries out to meet both European and global challenges related to a range of areas including farmland biodiversity which is of particular interest to MulkearLIFE in terms of its work with farmers with river frontage. All events will take place in the EU marquee Row H Stand No. 223. So please drop by and say hello.

#### 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](http://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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