



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

## Press Release

17<sup>th</sup> April 2011

### Details of Farmer Consultation Meetings

Following ongoing discussions with the IFA, the ICMSA and Teagasc MulkearLIFE is delighted to announce details of its public consultation process with the farming community in the catchment in the month of May.

It is expected that a minimum of 12 pilot farms in the Mulkear Catchment (covering counties Limerick, Tipperary North Riding and Tipperary South Riding) will be included in the programme of works. Farmer involvement, which is entirely voluntary, will be based on expressions of interest and is expected to include farmers with intensive farm systems in the lower reaches of the catchment to extensive High Nature Value (HNV) farm system in the upper catchment. Each farm system will require an individual approach and there will be a need for a large degree of flexibility in each individual case. It is expected however that installation work will include, amongst other measures, the erecting of fencing along river courses, the installation of watering harvesting equipment, including gravity feed solutions with water piping and water troughs, installation of pasture pumps on farms, to include pumps, piping and fittings. Other measures may include the installation of solar pumped solutions.

Following a number public meetings regarding the programme of work last year, it has been agreed that an additional 8 evening meetings will be organised. These will take place on Wednesday and Thursday nights in May as follows:

#### 1st Week

Wednesday 4th May at 9.00pm – Pallas Green

Thursday 5th May at 9.00pm – Newport

#### 2nd Week

Wednesday 11th May at 9.00pm – Cappamore

Thursday 12th May at 9.00pm – Kilcommon

#### 3rd Week

Wednesday 18th May at 9.00pm – Boher

Thursday 19th May at 9.00pm – Rear Cross

#### 4th Week

Wednesday 25th May at 9.00pm – Oola

Thursday 26th May at 9.00pm – Cappawhite

Full details of all meetings will be advertised locally.

## 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.mulkearlifeproject.com](http://www.mulkearlifeproject.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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