



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

Press Release

18th June 2012

A Day On The Hills With Oireachtas Members

MulkearLIFE’s Project Manager, Ruairí Ó Conchúir, was delighted to have the opportunity to spend a day out on the Galtees, overlooking the Mulkear Catchment, as part of the annual Oireachtas Hill Walk yesterday (17th June 2012). The event, which was hosted by Mountaineering Ireland with the support of local hill walking clubs, was a wonderful success and was held on an exceptionally fine day. Given the extremely poor wet weather over the past three weeks the Oireachtas members were blessed to get a near perfect dry day.

While not a work day for the TDs, Senators and Oireachtas staff members, the event offered an excellent opportunity to unwind on one of Ireland’s most magnificent mountains – Galtee Mor – reaching just over 3,000 feet.

The day itself was perfect for hill walking with the weather obliging and offering stunning views not only across the entire Mulkear catchment covering Tipperary (North & South) and Limerick counties but also across at least 8 other counties; Cork, Kerry, Clare, Galway, Offaly, Laois, Kilkenny and Waterford.

Ruairí Ó Conchúir, who was there in a personal capacity, was especially delighted to have the opportunity to brief Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaelteacht on the progress achieved to date by MulkearLIFE. Minister Deenihan’s department, through the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), is a very significant co-financer of MulkearLIFE. The overall financial contribution of NPWS to the work of MulkearLIFE is €160,000, spread over the duration of the project.

The Minister was given an informal briefing on the ongoing work being undertaken by Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Office of Public Works and Limerick County Council to restore the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (Mulkear catchment) for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and Otter. The Minister expressed his delight as to the progress achieved by MulkearLIFE to date.

But the day on the hills was not about work but more about enjoying the mountains and keeping up with the blistering pace set by the former PE teacher and five times All Ireland Senior Football medal winner, Minister Deenihan. After over five hours on the hills the TDs, Senators and Oireachtas staff members returned safely to the Aherlow House Hotel. A great day was had by all.

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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