



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

Press Release

18th November 2010

Extensive New Fencing On Mulkear

Extensive new fencing has been erected on the Mulkear River below Ballyclough weir from the new road bridge downstream. Several hundred meters of fencing has been erected along the left hand river bank. Within the riparian zone the existing pathway for recreational users remains in place. The fencing is designed to perform two specific functions. Firstly, it prevents livestock, young cattle in particular, from being lost on accessing the river, especially during times of high flood. Secondly, it controls livestock access to the river and the riparian zone. This in turn will, over time, allow for the natural regeneration of the riparian zone. It can also be expected that this will in turn help enhance and stabilise the river bank on this very scenic stretch of the main Mulkear channel.

The work is being undertaken by local contractors and once completed will serve as an important benchmark for the exact (per meter) costings for fencing work MulkearLIFE will be undertaking with local farmers throughout the catchment. MulkearLIFE congratulates the landowner and all involved in this important fencing project.

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
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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