



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

Press Release

19th April 2013

A Great Night of Sharing & Learning

MulkearLIFE was delighted to have the opportunity last night (18 April 2013) to present to a large and enthusiastic crowd in the North Cork town of Newmarket. The event formed part of a series of events in April organised by the IRD Duhallow LIFE project as part of its Environmental Awareness Month.

MulkearLIFE's illustrated talk focused on community involvement in practical conservation work. It attempted to share with those in attendance, which included Tidy Towns committee members, farmers, anglers, bird watchers and environmentalists, the experience of MulkearLIFE's community outreach work and the outstanding work being undertaken by the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers over the past three years. However, the major highlight of the night was the participation by, and involvement of, the exceptional students of Cullen National School. Their input and questions illuminated the night and brought great enjoyment to the presenter and all those attending. It was a true night of shared learning with deeply insightful questions from the brilliant young students. A great many prizes were awarded on the night.

MulkearLIFE offers its deep gratitude to our sister LIFE project, IRD Duhallow LIFE, and offers its thanks the project team for their warm welcome on a great night of learning and sharing. MulkearLIFE looks forward to welcoming the Duhallow LIFE team on a visit to the Mulkear in the near future.

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.

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Life IN THE RIVER ALLOW AT FREEMOUNT

Co. Limerick
Co. Cork

SAC
River Allow Catchment

YOU ARE HERE

Allow
Meelin
Newmarket
Kanturk
Boherbue
Banteer
Blackwater River

The River Allow

0 2 4 6 Kilometers

IRD Duhallo and EU LIFE Programme

Rising in the Mullaghareirk Mountains and following along a meandering course approximately 30km long, the River Allow drains blanket peat bog and forestry in the uplands. Lower down the catchment the main agricultural activities are dairy and beef farming. Freemount is located almost midway along the River Allow and is therefore a very important area for nature. Otters, Dipper and Grey Wagtails are resident in the area.

The river conditions in Freemount are ideal for Salmon. There is an abundance of gravel for fish to spawn in; trees along the river bank provide cover for fish from predators while keeping the river water cool. The fast moving, ripply water keeps oxygen concentrations relatively high and also helps keep the river bed clear of silt.

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel also needs very clean water and good habitat conditions and IRD Duhallo are working closely with the local community and landowners in Freemount and Freemount National School to protect these rare and important species in the area. The River Allow meets the main Blackwater River approximately 4.5 km downstream of Kanturk town just north of the village of Banteer.

NATURA 2000

LIFE

Our rivers hold many endangered and important wildlife species and, here in the Duhallo region, a project to point the way towards the conservation of a number of endangered fish and bird species has been undertaken. Restoration works targeting the River Allow catchment, aim to improve the upper reaches of the Munster Blackwater River which is designated under EU law as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Important wildlife species in the River Allow include the Dipper, the European Otter, Kingfisher, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout.