



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

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## Press Release

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012

### Highly Successful Community Seminar on Riparian Invasives

MulkearLIFE / Inland Fisheries Ireland were delighted with the success of the seminar held today in Murroe, Co. Limerick. The event, a major training and networking seminar entitled ‘Community Involvement in the Control and Management of Invasive Plant Species Along Rivers & Water Bodies’ was attended by groups and individuals from across Ireland.

Presentations were made by Mr. Ruairí Ó Conchúir and Mr. Glen Wightman from MulkearLIFE. In addition, Mr. John Geraghty gave a presentation on using chemical sprays and best practice in terms of application, efficiency and safety.

The training element of the seminar focused on how community groups could begin to address the problem of non-native invasive plant species along rivers in their locality. Exciting case studies of community involvement in such work in counties Cork, Limerick and Carlow were presented. Ms. Catherine Daly from the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers presented on work at Annacotty, Co. Limerick, while Dr. Michael Millane from CAISIE / IFI, presented a case study on the Barrow Navigation system in Co. Carlow. Finally, Mr. Tim Ring from IDR Duhallow, DuhallowLIFE, gave an overview of rural social scheme involvement in work in Duhallow.

The afternoon element of seminar was in the field with a particular focus on the main non-native invasive plant species, namely Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Pheasant Berry at one site. A great day was had by all. A full report will be posted in due course.

#### 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](http://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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