



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

## Press Release

20<sup>th</sup> May 2013

### **MulkearLIFE to Support BioBlitz 2013 This Week-End - 24/25 May 2013**

MulkearLIFE and members of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers (MCV) will support BioBlitz 2013 which is taking place throughout Ireland this coming week-end – 24 & 25 May 2013. The event, which is included in the 2013 Schedule of MCV Outings here: [Mulkear Conservation Volunteers: 2013 Schedule of Outings](#) will take place at four different locations.

The event will take place for 24 hours from 17.00hrs on Friday 24th May to 17.00hrs on Saturday 25th May recording will take place at various locations throughout Ireland. BioBlitz 2013 is being organised by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Coillte and the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording. For further information on BioBlitz please see: [BioBlitz 2013](#)

MulkearLIFE and members of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers will be supporting BioBlitz in the Burren National Park. This is a return visit to our near neighbours in Co. Clare following participation in the 2011 event in Dromore Woods.

The Burren National Park is one of the most outstanding landscapes in Ireland with a vast richness of flora and fauna. It extends for 1,500 hectares and is owned by the State and managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service. It is an area of high nature and conservation value and is designated as an Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Much of the National Park lies within the East Burren Complex SAC see here:

It contains both priority Annex I and Annex II habitats of Irish and European importance, including species rich calcareous grasslands, limestone pavement, petrifying springs, oligotrophic lakes, turloughs, woodlands and hazel scrub. The National Park is also a cultural landscape of international importance with a vast cultural, historical and archaeological heritage.

The MulkearLIFE team and members of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers (MCV), will work alongside colleagues in the Inland Fisheries Ireland, NPWS, Burrenbeo and the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers (see [here](#)) together with other bodies and volunteers. We will focus our efforts on the recording skills of MCV members – which are many and varied. We will in particular focus on fresh water fish and invertebrates, mammals and bird species. Depending of the level of interest, MulkearLIFE will organise free transport from the offices of MulkearLIFE, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dock Rd, Limerick. We hope as many people as possible can be part of this event in the beautiful Burren as part of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers 2013 Schedule of Outings.

For further information on the Burren National Park please see: [Burren National Park](#)

#### 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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