



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

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## Press Release

20<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### Upper Bilboa

MulkearLIFE was delighted to attend the official opening of the new Pilgrim Looped walk on the Upper Bilboa on Friday evening (17 September 2010) in the village of Kilcommon. The new looped walk covers a beautiful area of upland high nature value farmland and forestry on the upper headwaters of the Bilboa River. The Project was delighted to have the opportunity to brief the very large crowd in attendance on the conservation work of MulkearLIFE including the work programme on the Bilboa River.

The staff of Inland Fisheries Ireland (the old Shannon Regional Fisheries Board) had advised the Kilcommon Community Council on footbridge options and design over the Bilboa River in relation to the looped walk route.

MulkearLIFE had time to network with members of the local community regarding its environmental education programme in local schools both during the 8km walk and at the social event in the Kilcommon village afterward the walk. The project also had the opportunity to brief members of the local farming community regarding the work of the project with upland and lowland farmers in the Mulkear catchment. MulkearLIFE expressed its warmest wishes to all involved in the Kilcommon Pilgrim Loop.

#### 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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