



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

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## Press Release

21<sup>st</sup> May 2012

### Photo Competition - and the Winners Are

MulkearLIFE received hundreds of entries to our Amateur Photo Competition. The winning entry for the adult competition and the overall winner is Ms. Rachel Crowley with this wonderful image of a smiling Bottlenose Dolphin in the Shannon Estuary.

The winner of the first prize in the under 18 category was Ms. Kayleigh Berry from Annacotty with this wonderful image taken while out walking in the University of Limerick, in the Plassey area. The image is a carved tree trunk in the form of a chair, symbolising the human life form amidst wildlife and nature at the edge of the river.

The Minister of Finance Mr. Michael Noonan TD, will be on hand today, Monday 21st May 2012, at the prize giving ceremony for all six winners (3 Adults and 3 Young Adults), to view all images which have been highly commended and a range of other images. The images will be on view in Annacotty village (Top Drawer Shop) from 12.00 today.

Congratulations to all our winners and to all who took part in this exciting competition. The full listing of all winning images and a cross selection of other images will be posted on the MulkearLIFE website following the LIFE @ 20 celebrations today in Annacotty.

#### 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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