



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

Press Release

22nd December 2011

Christmas & New Year Greetings

As the end of the year draws near, MulkearLIFE would like to wish all of our project partners, Mulkear Conservation Volunteers, colleagues and friends a very joyful and peaceful Christmas and the very best wishes for a very happy New Year in 2012.

This has been a great year of delivery for MulkearLIFE. We have achieved many significant concrete conservation actions. We would really like to thank you all most sincerely for your support, practical help and encouragement throughout 2011. We greatly appreciate this support. It has helped us achieve so much to restore the wider Mulkear catchment for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey, Otter and has helped us to enhance the conservation status of the Lower Shannon SAC.

The year was also a great year for the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers (MCV). We would like to sincerely thank all volunteers for their support. We would in particular like to pay tribute to Mr. Pat Dempsey (MCV member) who passed away during the year. Pat will be remembered with great fondness as he brought great enthusiasm to various conservation outings last year and in the early part of this year.

We have a great deal of work planned for 2012. This will include continued instream works on the Mulkear, Newport and Clare / Annagh rivers with our project partners (Office of Public Works and Limerick County Council), work alongside local farmers, continued easement of migration barriers on the Mulkear, ongoing work on otter habitat and further otter holt installations (with our colleagues in NPWS) and ongoing removal of invasives throughout the catchment, together with our environmental education work in schools and the wider community.

The year ahead will also be an important year in celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the European Commission's LIFE programme and MulkearLIFE will be announcing a full programme of events and outings for 2012, including details of our photo competition. Full details of all events will be available on the project website – www.mulkearlife.com. Please continue to support MulkearLIFE in 2012 and get involved in project activities.

The Project Office will close on the evening of the 23rd December and reopen on the morning of the 30th December 2011.

To get in touch with MulkearLIFE please use any of the following means:

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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.

Issued by:

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