



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

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## Press Release

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010

### Mulkear Conservation Volunteers - Great Outing

The largest corps of Mulkear Conservation Volunteers to date undertook some great practical conservation work in the Clare Glens last Saturday (20 November 2010). Over twenty members of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers (MCV) braved the cold to undertake a very considerable body of work.

The first hour of the outing focused on a discussion on the planned work in 2010 / 2011 and health and safety issues. The actual fieldwork was based on the lower section of the Clare Glens, on the Clare River. The work focused on a range of practical measures and members worked in teams. Teams of volunteers focused their considerable efforts on riparian management work, path repair, removal of fallen trees within the river which had formed barriers to fish passage and a massive clean-up operation. In total over 30 bags of rubbish was removed from the river and the riparian zone. This included a significant amount of litter below the carpark area and along the looped walk trail both sides of the Clare River.

The Mulkear Conservation Volunteers are helping to enhance biodiversity through volunteer participation in practical conservation activities linked to MulkearLIFE's work programme. They are assisting in the conservation efforts of local community groups in maintaining the natural environment of the Mulkear Catchment. The work includes the removal of the invasive plant 'Himalayan Balsam' and helping to organise outings, talks, workshops, training, on biodiversity in the Mulkear. New members are always welcome.

Sincere thanks to all MCV members who gave so generously of their time. The next outing of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers is planned for the 29 January 2011 and will focus on path clearance work.

#### 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.

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