



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

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## Press Release

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011

### **MulkearLIFE delighted to support BioBlitz**

MulkearLIFE and members of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers (MCV) were delighted to support our colleagues in Inland Fisheries Ireland (Shannon River Basin District) during BioBlitz 2011 in Dromore Woods Nature Reserve this past weekend. The 24 hour event, to mark International Biodiversity Day, will be remembered as one of sunshine on the Friday evening and unremitting rain throughout Saturday until the sun finally emerged at the close of business at 5pm on Saturday afternoon.

The rain did not dampen the spirits of the great many volunteers and recorders and fun was had by all. Inland Fisheries Ireland had erected a large marquee which proved invaluable in providing shelter on Saturday. It also provided an excellent venue for a range of educational outreach work for children and adults. The various freshwater invertebrates proved to be of great interest to all as did the various fish species which were put on display in two aquariums. Aside from the actual use of microscopes for recording purposes, children attending BioBlitz were provided with an opportunity to discover the amazing extent of biodiversity on show.

MulkearLIFE and the MCV worked alongside colleagues in Inland Fisheries Ireland, together with Frances Lucy (IT Sligo) and Ger Morgan (UCC), and focused efforts on bird, mammal, fish and fresh water invertebrates. The results of BioBlitz 2011 are now known. Killarney National Park was the overall winner. Over the 24 hour period the volunteers and recorders amassed an amazing total of 1088 species. This was double the number achieved by last year's champions. The Raven (Co. Wexford) was in second place with 826 species. Ballycroy (Connemara, Co Galway) came in third place 702 species. Dromore Woods Nature Reserve (Co. Clare) just surpassed Liffey Valley Park (Co. Dublin) by one with a total of 688 species. Congratulations to all involved in Killarney National Park – they are Ireland's new BioBlitz Champions for 2011.

MulkearLIFE looks forward to next year's event and congratulates all involved in the success of the Dromore woods events and in particular our colleagues in Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick), NPWS, Clare County Council, IT Sligo, UCC, the National Biodiversity Centre and a great number of volunteers.

## 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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