



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

Press Release

25th February 2013

Successful Conservation Volunteer Outing at Annacotty

In near perfect conditions and with the water levels on the Mulkear River having fallen significantly during the week, the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers held a highly successful outing on Saturday last, 23rd February 2013. The practical conservation work took place in Annacotty on both sides of the Mulkear River above and below the old Dublin Road bridge. The outing was focused on riparian management at this High Nature Value, High Amenity Value, site.

At the Mill Bar site emerging Giant Hogweed was removed and a discussion took place on the management plan for Himalayan Balsam and the re-growth of native Irish riparian flora on the site. Additional Giant Hogweed was removed below the ‘Mural of LIFE’ site. Significant evidence of otter activity on site was also discussed and reviewed including the remains of a river lamprey.

The more significant practical conservation work took place on the northern bank of the river. With the consent and blessing of St Vincent’s Special Needs Centre, the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers undertook a programme of tree planting, including Irish oak trees (Pedunculate or common oak – *Quercus robur*) – which included five specimen trees and a large number of saplings grown by MCV member Gearóid Jackson and denoted for planting. In addition, a large number of alder and willow saplings were also planted.

Bird nest boxes were also installed at various strategic sites within the wooded riparian zone. These included bird box types specifically designed for robin, blue tit and great tit and a standard box for other common birds.

Amongst the birds recorded on site included, blue tit, great tit, long-tailed tit, robin, blackbird and chaffinch while dipper and pied wagtail were recorded on the river.

A significant clean up of the Mill Bar and St Vincent’s site also took place during the outing. Aside from non-native invasive plant species, this results in the removal of bags of rubbish including general rubbish, plastic and glass bottles, a plastic chair and a steel pet cage.

MulkearLIFE would like to thank all the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers, including new members, who gave so generously of their time to make the outing such a success.

The [full schedule](#) of this year’s outings is available on this website under the ‘Reports and Resources’ section. The next scheduled MCV outing is on the 23rd March 2013 and will focus very much on tree planting. Full details of the event will be posted in the next week.

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.

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