



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

Press Release

25th May 2013

A Great 24 Hours Supporting BioBlitz 2013

MulkearLIFE and members of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers (MCV) had a great time with colleagues from Inland Fisheries Ireland supporting BioBlitz 2013 in the Burren National Park. The 24 hour event kicked off at 17.00hrs on Friday evening in glorious sunshine and finished this evening at 17.00hrs (Saturday 25 May) in light drizzly rain.

BioBlitz 2013, which was organised by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Coillte and the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording covered four sites across the island of Ireland. Colebrooke in Co. Fermanagh was the overall winner with a massive total of 1,086 species. The Burren came third with an overall total of 947 species.

MulkearLIFE and Mulkear Conservation Volunteers members worked alongside colleagues in Inland Fisheries Ireland and focused on fresh water fish species via electrofishing and fresh water invertebrates through kick sampling and collections.

MulkearLIFE also recorded significant numbers of mammals (otter, mink and fox) and well over 50 bird species, many of which were recorded as part of an early morning dawn chorus event at 5.30am.

MulkearLIFE would like to thank our IFI colleagues, Mr. Ken O'Neill and Mr. Dave Germaine and all the volunteers who helped make BioBlitz 2013 so special. It was an extremely rewarding 24 hours of recording with some of the leading biodiversity experts in Ireland on hand. The Burren recorded a massive total of 947 species with a number of individuals recording several hundred species.

In addition, MulkearLIFE would like to sincerely thank colleagues in the National Biodiversity Data Centre and the Burren staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service for organising such a enjoyable event and for their wonderful support.

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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