



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

Press Release

26th February 2010

Shannon Regional Fisheries Board staff meets Head of European Parliament Office in Ireland

The staff of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board had an opportunity this week to discuss the work of the Mulkear LIFE project with the Head of the European Parliament Office in Ireland, Mr. Francis Jacobs. Mr. Jacobs met with the Assistant CEO of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board, Mr Sean Ryan and Mr Ruairí Ó Conchúir and Mr Glen Wightman of Mulkear LIFE. The Mulkear LIFE project is a new €1.75 million European Commission funded LIFE Nature project working on the restoration of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (Mulkear River catchment) for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and Otter. The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board is lead partner together with the OPW and Limerick County Council.

A briefing was given to Mr Jacobs on the five year work programme of the Mulkear LIFE project which is 50% funded through the European Commission. Mr Jacobs outlined the importance of the European Union for Ireland and the vital role the European Parliament plays to ensure that the EU remains democratically accountable and responsive to its citizens.

Mulkear LIFE is one of the first and most important integrated catchment management projects in Ireland. The project area covers some 650 sq km and contains a variety of habitats and protected species. The European Parliament office in Ireland has been very supportive of the Mulkear LIFE's Environmental Education programme in a large number of schools within the Mulkear River catchment. Mr. Ruairí Ó Conchúir expressed the hope that 'the strong partnership between Mulkear LIFE and the European Parliament office in Ireland would continue to grow and develop over the next four years.

Anyone wishing to get further information on the work of Mulkear LIFE can visit the project website www.mulkearLIFE.com or e-mail info@mulkearlifec.com or telephone 061 300 238.

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. Shannon Regional Fisheries Board 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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