



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

Press Release

26th September 2012

4th Year of the Environmental Education Programme To Be Launched

On Monday next (October 1st 2012) MulkearLIFE will launch the fourth year of its highly successful Environmental Education Programme. The Programme targets primary and post primary schools within the Mulkear catchment and in adjacent areas. To date the programme has reached over 1,300 school-children and their teachers. By the end of the 2012-2013 academic year, MulkearLIFE hopes to have added another 300 to 400 school children to that total. The Programme is open to all schools in the Mulkear catchment. To get your school involved get in touch with the Project on Tel. No. 061 300 238 or email info@mulkearlife.com.

The Environmental Education Programme involves two engagements – a classroom presentation by MulkearLIFE and a field trip within the Mulkear Catchment to various river sites such as Annacotty weir on the Mulkear River, Bilboa Bridge on the Bilboa River or the Clare Glens on the Clare River. Events take place during the academic year with field trips usually taking place in April, May and June. The river based field trips have given school children, their teachers and teacher assistants, in schools across Limerick and Tipperary counties, great enjoyment over the past three years and MulkearLIFE is hopeful that the fourth year of the programme will be the best yet.

The Programme is entirely free of charge to schools and participating students gain a better understanding of the work of MulkearLIFE and the importance of riparian habitat and the connectivity of rivers and wildlife corridors. Students also gain a better understanding of Ireland’s fish species, invertebrates and water quality, the major threat of non-native invasive plant species. All field trips are planned following the seven principles of Leave No Trace and these principles are put into practice during the field trip.

The Programme gives the schoolchildren involved a heightened sense of “environmental ownership” and recognition of the importance of the river catchment as an important natural resource. In particular the Programme promotes awareness of the catchment and the habitats and species in the rivers and streams. Developing this greater understanding and respect for the flora, fauna and physical habitat is of a great help to the schoolchildren and their teachers to better understand the positive and negative environmental impacts of our own daily actions.

To get your school involved get in touch with the Project on Tel. No. 061 300 238 or email info@mulkearlife.com.

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

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:

Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Project Manager – MulkearLIFE
Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick Office)
Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick
Tel: 061 300 238 / Fax: 061 300 308 / Mob: 087 062 5582
E-mail: info@mulkearlife.com
Web: www.mulkearlife.com / www.inlandfisheries.ie

