



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

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## Press Release

27<sup>th</sup> August 2012

### September 2012 - Series of Four Illustrated Talks

MulkearLIFE / Inland Fisheries Ireland today announce details of another block of free Illustrated Talks. These talks form part of the four year Environmental Education Programme of MulkearLIFE working with schools and in the local community throughout counties Limerick and Tipperary. The September 2012 series of talks will focus on Ireland’s rich natural heritage with a particular focus on the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation and the Mulkear catchment. The series will take place over four Tuesdays in September. The venue for all talks is the Inland Fisheries Ireland Office, Dock Road, Limerick, which is a 2-minute drive from Limerick City Centre, with ample free parking in front of the building. Talks will commence at 8.00pm and there is free admission to all talks. Click [Here For Directions](#).

The first talk will take place on Tuesday 4th September. The speaker will be Mr. Glen Wightman entitled “MulkearLIFE’s Work with Sea Lamprey- A Success Story”. Mr. Wightman is the Project Officer with MulkearLIFE. His talk will cover the three species of lamprey in Irish water and their unique life history. The talk will primarily focus on Sea Lamprey migration in the Mulkear catchment and MulkearLIFE’s work to assist their migration. His talk should be of interest to all and especially to people wanting to learn more about these unique fish and those with an interest in the natural history of the Mulkear River.

“Future for Ireland’s Freshwater Fish on the Red Data List” is the title of the second talk on Tuesday 11th September with Dr. James King as guest speaker. Dr. King is a Fisheries Biologist with Inland Fisheries Ireland and is based in Swords, Co. Dublin. His talk will cover many of the “conservation fish species” listed in the Red Data List, including the shads, lampreys, smelt, char, pollan and Atlantic salmon. The talk should be of interest to all and especially to anglers and people interested fish conservation.

Dr. Alex Copland, Senior Conservation Officer with BirdWatch Ireland will guest speak on Tuesday 18th September and his illustrated talk is called “CAP Reform and Irish Farmland Birds – New Thinking”. Dr. Copland will speak about Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and how the proposals could benefit not just birds, biodiversity and the environment but the people, both farmers and wider rural communities, on whom these species and habitats depend. His talk should be of particular interest to local farmers and conservationists.

The series of illustrated talks will conclude on Tuesday 25th September with a talk by Ms. Denise Delaney entitled “The OPW’s approach to Flood Risk Management and the Environment”. Ms. Delaney is an Engineer in the Environment Section of the Office of Public Works’ Flood Risk Management Service. Her talk will focus on the roles and responsibilities of the OPW in relation to Flood Risk Management, and the approach taken to ensure compliance with environmental legislation, with particular focus on the OPW’s Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP). The EREP is managed and co-ordinated jointly with Inland Fisheries Ireland, and involves the enhancement of selected salmonid channels across the OPW Arterial Drainage Schemes. Her talk should be of interest to all and especially to anglers and those with an interest in river enhancement”.

Admission to all talks is free of charge and all are welcome. Free parking is available on site. Further information regarding any of the talks may be obtained from [info@mulkearlif.com](mailto:info@mulkearlif.com) or from MulkearLIFE, Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick) on telephone number 061 300 238 / 087 062 5582.

#### 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.mulkearlif.com](http://www.mulkearlif.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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