



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

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## **Press Release**

**29<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

### **Success of Heritage Week**

MulkearLIFE was delighted with the success of three events it organised in conjunction with Heritage Week 2011. The two weekday events took place at Annacotty and were entitled ‘Exploring Sea Lamprey Passage and Biodiversity in the Mulkear Catchment’ and ‘Exploring biodiversity in and along the Mulkear River’. The second event in particular was a great hit with local children where they had an opportunity to explore the extraordinary rich biodiversity found in and along the Mulkear River. Adults and children alike were able to examine at close hand instream biodiversity and the importance of riparian habitats.

The children were in a position to undertake kick samples and assess the water quality of the Mulkear River through the identification of invertebrates. There was even a fresh carcass of a dead sea lamprey on hand for all to review. This facilitated an interesting discussion on sea lamprey passage and the food supply of otter.

The half-day field trip, which was booked-out, was a very enjoyable outing and involved a bus excursion to visit a range of exciting sites throughout the catchment. The event started at the confluence of the Mulkear and Shannon Rivers. The field trip was focused on the rich biodiversity of the Mulkear catchment. It also included a review of the work of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers over the past year, including of the work undertaken in the Clare Glen in November 2011.

Site visits were also undertaken to review the work of MulkearLIFE / Inland Fisheries Ireland and its main project partners, the OPW and Limerick County Council, to restore instream and riparian habitat. The newly installed rubble mats downstream of Dromkeen were of particular interest. This work, which was undertaken by Limerick County Council earlier this summer, has proven to be a great success.

## 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](http://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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