



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

Press Release

29th June 2011

A Very Special School Visit

MulkearLIFE was delighted to have the opportunity to visit Scoil Caitriona, National School, Cappamore, Co. Limerick on Tuesday of this week. The school featured in the TV documentary ‘Living the Wildlife’ which was broadcast earlier this year on RTE 1 television. MulkearLIFE was in a position to present a copy of the DVD to the principal of Scoil Caitriona, Ms. Maura Walsh. The DVD was shown to 4th, 5th & 6th classes. This was followed by a presentation on the work of MulkearLIFE, a quiz and a short field trip to the nearby Bilboa River.

The ‘Living the Wildlife’ programme, presented by wildlife cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson, featured the work of MulkearLIFE, including the tagging of sea lamprey and subsequent radio tracking. The students of Scoil Caitriona featured in the television programme as part of the project’s Environmental Education Programme with schools throughout the catchment.

During the short field trip to the nearby Bilboa River, the enthusiastic students were shown juvenile sea lamprey and even smaller juvenile brook lamprey. The importance of habitat protection was discussed as was the actual habitat of otter, salmon and lamprey. The students were treated to the wonderful sight of swallows catching insects on the wing directly above the surface of the river water and on occasion swallows taking a drink of water on the wing. They witnessed at first hand the impact of the invasive weed, Himalayan Balsam, and the erosional impact of livestock with direct access to the river.

The school children were also given the most wonderful opportunity to see at close hand five signets and their parents feeding in the river, moving in and out of the fast flowing river channel, and the river vegetation, which included river water crowfoot.

The highlight of the field trip was a parting rendition by the school students of ‘The Fair of Cappamore’. MulkearLIFE would most sincerely wish to express its deep gratitude to the stars of Scoil Caitriona and to the wonderful staff. We wish all the students well for the coming year and look forward to working with the school again.

The Fair of Cappamore

It was on a Summer’s evening in the merry month of May
I was coming from the fair of Cappamore
I was driving home a purty pair of heifers by the way
When I chanced to stop outside a cottage door.
I just stepped in to light my pipe, as any man would do
Going to or coming from a fair
There I spied a pretty cailin with two eyes of melting blue
Begorra then my heart felt very quare.

Chorus:

I love to ramble down the old boreen
When the hawthorn blossoms are in bloom
And to sit by the gate on an old mossy seat
And to whisper unto Kate Muldoon.

I was coming from my farm, down a neighbouring boreen
When I met sweet Kitty tripping like a fawn
She gave me such a smile that I felt as in a dream,
Sure I never slept a wink that night 'til dawn.

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:

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