



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

Press Release

3rd May 2013

MulkearLIFE Welcomes Slovenian Visitors

MulkearLIFE was delighted to host colleagues from a sister LIFE project in Slovenia to the Mulkear catchment yesterday (Thursday 2nd May 2013). The distinguished visitors were from LUTRA, the Institute for Conservation of Natural Heritage in Slovenia. They are working to protect the European Otter and are heading up a LIFE project in Slovenia to raise awareness and disseminate information about otters and the need to protect their habitats.

Project Manager, Marjana Hönigsfeld Adamič and Project Officer, Tatjana Gregorc from the Lutra LIFE Communication Project were in Ireland for the IUCN European Otter Workshop in Cork. Given their work with otter, and their extensive experience in public awareness work regarding the protection of otter habitat, MulkearLIFE was honoured to host our Slovenia visitors.

MulkearLIFE outlined to our guests the practical conservation measures which have been undertaken over the past four years to improve water quality and enhance food resources through major in-stream enhancement works.

Sites were visited on the Mulkear, Newport & Clare-Annagh river systems. An artificial otter holt which had been installed in 2012 was visited and issues regarding site selection discussed. The project's catchment wide survey work was discussed as were plans for work with otter this year. The key role played by the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers in otter conservation work and in other areas of work was outlined to the visitors. This included work undertaken on the Clare River at Clare Glens.

One of the highlights of the day was the time spent by our visitors with the staff and students of Caherline National School who were on the field trip element of MulkearLIFE's Environmental Education Programme with the school.

Marjana and Tatjana were in a position to help out with the invertebrate identification and were able to outline the work which there are involved with in the project of otters and other mammals in Slovenia.

MulkearLIFE would like to express its deep gratitude to LUTRA, the Institute for Conservation of Natural Heritage in Slovenia and wish our LIFE colleagues the very best wishes in the future work.

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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