



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

## Press Release

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012

### Have Your Say on the North Tipperary Biodiversity Plan

The work of MulkearLIFE includes large areas of North Tipperary. The upper reaches of the catchment, including the upper sections of the Newport and Clare / Annagh rivers, contain some wonderful habitat and High Nature Value (HNV) farmland. To help better understand these areas and the general biodiversity of the county, North Tipperary County Council is in the process of preparing a Biodiversity Plan for the county. They want the input of interested parties.

The natural heritage and biodiversity of North Tipperary is particularly rich with many exceptional areas including Lough Derg, the Little Brosna Callows and upland areas which fall within and those which fall outside of the Mulkear catchment. The Biodiversity Plan will list projects and actions that will be implemented over the next three years. It will highlight the wonderful natural amenities in the county and raise awareness of the value of biodiversity. It will also work to protect and enhance the North Tipperary's rich and diverse natural heritage.

North Tipperary County Council, one of MulkearLIFE's project co-financers, are inviting everyone to have their say in relation to the biodiversity plan. There will be two free events for the public to learn more about nature and wildlife and to give their views on what should be included in the Biodiversity Plan.

The talk 'Nature and Wildlife in North Tipp' will take place on Thursday 4th October in The Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh at 7.30pm, and repeated on Tuesday October 9th in the Anner Hotel, Thurles also at 7.30pm. For more information, contact Marion Carey, Heritage Officer, North Tipperary County Council on 067 44677.

#### 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](http://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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