



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

Press Release

4th May 2012

MulkearLIFE presents at Invasive Species Ireland Forum

MulkearLIFE was delighted to have an opportunity yesterday (May 3rd 2012) to attend and present at the Invasive Species Ireland (ISI) Forum held in the National Botanical Gardens, Dublin. The Forum, which meets on an annual basis, enables people from across Ireland and further afield, to exchange information and agree priorities. Most importantly it enables ISI to host various state and non-state agencies, NGOs and academics and afford all an opportunity to network and a space to participate in constructive engagement and dialogue.

Each year the Forum covers different topics. Past events have included presentations from some of Ireland's leading invasive species experts and invasive species managers. The 2012 Forum attracted a full house of 150 delegates and included an update from Invasive Species Ireland by John Kelly, an extremely interesting talk by Anthony Jackson on the economic impact of non-native invasive species (NNIS) in Ireland together with an input by Colette O'Flynn from the National Biodiversity Data Centre on the trends in introductions of invasive species.

MulkearLIFE's talk focused on 'Community mobilisation for practical actions to address riparian invasive plant species'. The illustrated talk focused on the work of the project and more particularly the project's two key partners, namely Limerick County Council and the Office of Public Works. The work of these two key partners and the scale of the non-native invasive plant species within the riparian zone of river throughout the Mulkear catchment was outlined in the presentation.

In addition, the outstanding work being undertaken by the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers. The work of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers at High Nature Value (HNV) value sites and high amenity value sites such as Annacotty on the Mulkear River, Bilboa and Blackboy Bridges on the Bilboa River and the Clare Glens on the Clare River were highlighted. The need to develop and adhere to a site specific Management Plan for Himalayan Balsam at each site to be tackled was outlined.

The Annacotty site in particular was highlighted in the presentation where the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers have undertaken considerable work on both sides of the Mulkear River, above and below the new and old bridges. The site in question is an important high nature value (HNV) site and is of high amenity value. The importance of general public awareness and the need to celebrate success stories was also discussed. It was noted that the Annacotty site is an important demonstration site to highlight the impact of Himalayan Balsam, on native Irish flora and fauna.

Other speakers at the 2012 Forum focused on individual freshwater invasive species, on marine pathways and terrestrial invasive species. MulkearLIFE would like to thank Invasive Species Ireland for affording the project the opportunity to present at the 2102 Forum. MulkearLIFE offers its best wishes to Invasive Species Ireland in the roll-out of its important 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.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:

Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Project Manager – MulkearLIFE
Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick Office)
Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick
Tel: 061 300 238 / Fax: 061 300 308 / Mob: 087 062 5582
E-mail: info@mulkearlifeproject.com
Web: www.mulkearlifeproject.com / www.inlandfisheries.ie

