



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

## Press Release

6<sup>th</sup> August 2013

### MulkearLIFE's Heritage Week Events 2013

MulkearLIFE is delighted to announce details of the two events it will host during National Heritage Week 2013, which takes place nationwide from 17th – 25th August 2013.

The theme of Heritage Week 2013 is ‘Discover the Past. Build the Future’ and this year’s events look set to reach a record total of over 1,700 events, the majority of which will be FREE to attend. From dancing at the crossroads in Cork, prehistoric hunting games in Donegal, touring the tenements of Dublin City, learning about the Wicklow Gold Rush of 1795 to becoming a mini ranger for the day and exploring the wildlife of Clara Bog in Offaly... there is something for everyone to enjoy during National Heritage Week 2013.

MulkearLIFE is delighted once again to be part of Heritage Week. The first event, will take place on Wednesday 21st August at 12 midday and will last approximately two hours. The meeting point is the car park area of the Mill Bar, Annacotty, Co Limerick. The event is entitled Exploring Biodiversity At Annacotty. The event, which is open to young and old, will examine a range of issues including local wildlife, in-stream biodiversity, the importance of riparian habitats (riverbank habitats) and local woodlands. It will include kick-sampling for children to identify what bugs live in the water. The outing will also examine the rich biodiversity upstream of Annacotty weir and a very limited amount of walking will be involved.

The event will also outline the extraordinary story of the Atlantic Salmon and sea lamprey life cycle, their migration and upstream passage into the Lower Shannon SAC and Mulkear River and the importance of achieving passage both species at Annacotty weir.

The second event being hosted by MulkearLIFE is a field trip entitled ‘The Magical Mulkear: A Field Trip Of Discovery’. This free event, for which pre-booking is required, will take place on Saturday, 24th August 2013. It promises to be a very enjoyable day and will involve a bus excursion to visit a range of exciting sites throughout the catchment. The field trip will focus on the rich biodiversity of the Mulkear catchment (from source to mouth) and some walking will take place to access sites.

The work of MulkearLIFE / Inland Fisheries Ireland and its main project partners, the OPW and Limerick County Council, to restore habitats in the Mulkear catchment will be reviewed. The field trip will also include a review of conservation work undertaken by the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers over the past four years.

The event is suitable for children and adults alike. Places on this field trip are limited and pre-booking is required (Tel. 061 300 238 or e-mail [info@mulkearlife.com](mailto:info@mulkearlife.com)). The bus will depart the Mill Bar Car Park, Annacotty @ 10.00hrs returning 15.00hrs.

All events are free of charge and open to all. Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing.

For full details of these events and all other events taking place throughout Ireland as part of Heritage Week 2013 please see the Heritage Week website: [Heritage Week 2013](http://Heritage Week 2013)

## 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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