



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

Press Release

6th February 2013

First Signs of Spring in the Mulkear Catchment

As we enter the first week of February 2013, the Mulkear catchment has experienced gales, storms, snow, hail, rain and today, for a change, beautiful sunshine.

While the weather has been extremely windy and very unsettled over the past two weeks, there has only been a few nights of consecutive hard frosts. Daytime temperatures have varied from 4 or 5 degrees Celsius to a barmy 13 degrees Celsius on the 29th January.

Despite the cold and unsettled weather, the signs of spring are visible throughout the catchment. Signs of new life abound.

As MulkearLIFE plans the roll-out of the key elements of its work programme for 2013, we look forward with great hope and expectation to a clear, bright, dry Spring and a warm dry Summer.

Normal spring and summer rainfall levels and corresponding river levels will be key to the project achieving its objectives this year.

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:

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@mulkearlife.com
Web: www.mulkearlife.com / www.inlandfisheries.ie

