



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

Press Release

7th March 2011

MulkearLIFE to Feature on ‘Living the Wildlife’

The new series of ‘Living The Wildlife’ will start broadcasting on Tuesday 8th March at 7pm on RTE ONE. It will run every Tuesday at the same time for six weeks. The work of MulkearLIFE will feature on the third programme in the series – on Tuesday 22 March 2011. MulkearLIFE understands that the programme will focus on our work with Sea Lamprey.

The programme is presented by Emmy-Award winning wildlife cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson and this series is the fourth year that RTE has broadcast the very popular nature programme. This year ‘Living the Wildlife’ travels all over Ireland filming a fascinating variety of wildlife including nesting kingfishers on the Dodder in Dublin, drumming woodpeckers in Wicklow and vampire eels (Sea Lamprey) in Limerick on the Mulkear River.

The work of MulkearLIFE and Inland Fisheries Ireland on Sea Lamprey will be the main focus of the programme and will include Sea Lamprey tagging, and subsequent radio tracking, by Dr. James King and Dr. Sean Rooney together with Mr. Glen Wightman.

This radio tracking work was undertaken to assess the extent of upstream passage problems that Sea Lamprey encounter on entering the Mulkear River from the Shannon River where they face various barriers including the first on the Mulkear River at Annacotty weir.

The programme promises to be a visual feast and of course educational and entertaining. The presenter, Colin Stafford-Johnson notes “The aim of our new series has been to find positive stories and show all the good inspiring things that are happening around us and to meet some of the wild and wonderful characters who dedicate their lives to the natural world.”

MulkearLIFE is hopeful that the programme, to be broadcast on the 22 March 2011 @ 7pm on RTE 1 television, will also include the filming work done with Cappamore National School as part of the project’s Environmental Education Programme in local schools and the work of project partners Office of Public Works and Limerick County Council.

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:

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