



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

Press Release

7th September 2012

Significant Bank Protection Work Completed on the Dead

The settled weather conditions over the past two weeks, and especially this week, have allowed MulkearLIFE's project partner Limerick County Council to undertake significant bank repair and bank protection work on the Dead River. It was previously posted, that a significant breach occurred on the Dead River in early June 2012. Due to the extremely poor summer, with rivers in flood and land super-saturated, all repair work was impossible up until now. This breach has now been fully repaired. Grass sod has been placed over the repairs to ensure bank stability and this has greatly helped the site.

Limerick County Council's exceptional work crew not only repaired the breach below Derran Bridge but also undertook over 400 meters of bank protection work down to the confluence of the Dead and the Cahernahillia rivers. The site will be fenced in the coming weeks.

The flood events this summer on the Dead and Reask rivers placed additional pressure on previous breaches and banks were further weakened and eroded by the sheer velocity and persistence of the flooding. This placed local landowners under pressure. The repair to these breaches and additional bank protection work will be the focus of Limerick County Councils work over the next number of weeks.

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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