



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

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## Press Release

8<sup>th</sup> May 2013

### **Fisheries Awareness Week, Inagh River, Co. Clare - Sat 18 May 2013**

MulkearLIFE is delighted to support our Inland Fisheries Ireland colleague's in Co. Clare in celebrating Fisheries Awareness Week 2013 on the beautiful Inagh River.

The early morning outing promises to be a full filled event for young and old. The outing, which is being coordinated by Ken O' Neill Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), will take place on Saturday, 18th May 2013 starting at 6am. It is free and open to all but pre booking is essential.

The meeting point is the Falls Hotel Car Park, Ennistymon at 06.00hrs. The river walk, with various designated stations of interest on route, will last approximately two hours and will cover a range of issues including an overview of the biodiversity of the area with a focus on birds and otters and other wildlife in area.

Monitoring of invertebrates (kick sampling) will also take place. The link to the ecology of the Inagh Catchment will be explored and the link between invertebrates as indicators of water quality will be examined.

A discussion will also take place on Leave No Trace and the recreational use of rivers and river walks. The potential impact on walking route and recreational activities on riparian ecology will be discussed. This will include the 'Fairy Glen' and the Ballymacraven River.

The problem on non-native invasive species will also be discussed, especially the impact that Japanese Knotweed is having along certain sections of the Inagh River.

The role of Inland Fisheries Ireland in addressing barriers to fish migration and in planning in general will be discussed. This will include a discussion on river clean-ups and the role of Tidy Towns in same. The role of IFI staff involved in the Glass Eel Monitoring Programme on the Inagh River at the 'Cascades' will also be discussed. A discussion on the major fish pass project on the 'Cascades' will also be outlined.

The role of IFI in fisheries conservation and the role staff play in the protection of Ireland's rich natural heritage will also be outlined.

MulkearLIFE looks forward to supporting this enjoyable family day on the beautiful Inagh River and looks forward to welcoming a great many to this Fisheries Awareness Week event in the Banner County. To book you place please contact Ken O'Neill on Tel. 061 300 238 or simply e-mail: [limerick@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:limerick@fisheriesireland.ie)

#### 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.mulkearlif.com](http://www.mulkearlif.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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