



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

Press Release

9th September 2010

Details of Four Free Illustrated Talks In September 2010 Announced

MulkearLIFE / Inland Fisheries Ireland today announces details of its Autumn block of free Illustrated Talks which will take place in September 2010 in the Cappamore Community Centre, Cappamore, Co. Limerick. These illustrated talks form part of the four year Environmental Education Programme of MulkearLIFE working with schools and the local community within the Mulkear catchment in counties Limerick and Tipperary. The Autumn 2010 series of talks will focus on the extraordinarily rich natural heritage of the Mulkear Catchment. The series will take place over four Wednesdays in September and will include leading experts sharing their knowledge of biodiversity, angling, farming and conservation. The venue for all talks is the Community Centre, Cappamore, Co. Limerick. All talks will commence at 8.00pm sharp and admission to the talks is free of charge.

The first talk will take place on Wednesday 8th September. The guest speaker will be Mr. Glen Wightman of MulkearLIFE. The talk is entitled “The First Year of MulkearLIFE”. Mr. Wightman is the Project Officer of MulkearLIFE and his talk will focus on the work undertaken in the first year of operation of the EC funded LIFE Nature project with a particular focus on work to enhance habitats for Salmon and Sea Lamprey. His talk will also focus on the instream works on the Mulkear and Newport rivers, the control and removal of non-native invasive weeds and electro fishing survey work which has recently been completed throughout the catchment.

Mr. Oisín Naughton will guest speak on Wednesday 15th September and his illustrated talk is called “Fish & Fishermen – Understanding Catchment Management”. Mr. Naughton is Catchment Management Officer for Inland Fisheries Ireland – Shannon River Basin District. His talk will focus on the importance of involving all stakeholders in catchment management to ensure the long-term sustainability of rivers and fish stocks. He will also outline the Management Plan for the Shannon Salmon Restoration Project in which he will outline the major impacts on salmon stocks and work underway to address these concerns. His talk should be of particular interest to local anglers.

“Biodiversity Within The Mulkear Catchment – The Perspective of Conservation Rangers” is the title of the third talk in the series on Wednesday, 22nd September with Ms. Elaine Keegan and Dr. Aine Lynch as guest speakers. Ms. Keegan and Dr. Lynch are employed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as Conservation Rangers. Biodiversity loss is one of the biggest single threats facing the world today and the UN has declared 2010 as International Year of Biodiversity. Ms. Keegan and Dr. Lynch will illustrate the rich biodiversity found within the region and will outline the work of the NPWS to prevent the loss of biodiversity from the unique and insightful perspective of a conservation ranger.

The series of illustrated talks will conclude on Wednesday 29th September with a talk by Mr. Ruairí Ó Conchúir entitled “Farming for Conservation in the Mulkear Catchment”. Mr. Ó Conchúir is Project Manager of MulkearLIFE. His talk will focus on the work of MulkearLIFE to build a partnership-based approach within the local farming community to implement practical cost effective ways through which river water quality on farms can be improved. The illustrated talk will draw on lessons from other High Nature Value farmland areas in Ireland and Scotland where farming for conservation approaches are proving successful. His talk should be of particular interest to local farmers.

Admission to all talks is free of charge and all are welcome. Further information regarding any of the talks may be obtained from the project website: www.mulkearlifeproject.com or info@mulkearlifeproject.com or from the MulkearLIFE project / Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick) on telephone 061 300 238 / 087 062 5582.

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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