



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

Press Release

9th September 2010

Teagasc Agri-Environmental Conference

Project supporter Teagasc hosted a major agri-environmental conference in the Mulkear catchment this week which MulkearLIFE was delighted to have a display stand at. The 2010 Agri Environment Conference provided a forum for those working in the agri-environmental arena to discuss the most topical environmental issues affecting agriculture in Ireland. The Conference focused on the practical outcomes from current agri-environment research and advisory experience and examined policy drivers and their potential impacts. The well attended event included inputs from experts on environmental research and policy and a farm walk on the Solohead Research Farm. Of particular interest to MulkearLIFE was the work of Dr. Rogier Schulte, Head of Environment Research (Johnstown Castle) and Teagasc's Agricultural Catchments Programme headed by Ger Shortle. The Agricultural Catchments Programme is based on a partnership with farmers and other stakeholders and aims to support productive agriculture while protecting water quality. MulkearLIFE is keen to continue to work in close co-operation with both parties and share results and findings of its own ongoing work with farmers to improve water quality in the Mulkear catchment.

Also in attendance was Dr. Ciarán O'Keefe and Dr. Andy Bleasdale of the National Parks and Wildlife Service who are significant co-financers of MulkearLIFE. Their input provided an update on national conservation issues and their attendance provided the project an opportunity to update NPWS senior management on progress achieved to date by MulkearLIFE.

In addition, the conference offered MulkearLIFE an opportunity to highlight its work within the local farming community to the large number of Teagasc planners and researchers and to network with local farmers attending the conference. It was also an opportunity for MulkearLIFE to showcase the project's environmental education work and its September 2010 series of illustrated talks in Cappamore Community Centre.

MulkearLIFE is extremely appreciative to Teagasc, and Mark Gibson in particular, Environmental Specialist and conference coordinator, for affording the project the opportunity to have a display stand at this important event held within the Mulkear catchment.

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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