



IRD Duhallow LIFE Newsletter

Project Update (June 2014)



Here comes the sun! And how welcome it is after the last few stormy and wet months. Now that the weather has calmed and the days grow longer and warmer, nature is in full swing in Duhallow. The sand martins have arrived back from their winter vacation in Africa and young salmon have emerged from the river gravel where their parents had spawned last winter. The IRD Duhallow LIFE+ project is now in its fourth year and we are starting to see some of the fruits of our labour.



Ground works

Rural Social Scheme participants and staff of IRD Duhallow continue to work on the various project actions, including fencing of river banks, pruning of dense river side vegetation and the planting of trees. We also trialled a range of willow planting techniques. The project has also had to apply for full planning permission on top of previous assessments to progress our bank revetment action. We hope that this will be resolved by the end of the summer.

Cattle access

The project has also trialled alternatives to direct cattle access to the river, including the use of animal activated pasture pumps, rainwater harvesting and solar powered troughs. These environmentally friendly alternative cattle drinking solutions are being refined with the assistance of landowners and we are very grateful for their help.

Allow catchment management

Last month saw the initiation of a river catchment management process on the River Allow. This was the IRD Duhallow LIFE+ project working jointly with the South Western Regional Authority INTERREGIV TRAP project. The process aims to address a range of issues affecting stakeholders and the river through an inclusive process of dialogue, local involvement and participation. Representatives from the following organisations attended: Irish Farmers Association, the Irish Creamery and Milk Suppliers Association, Macra na Feirme, individual local landowners, Coillte, the Irish Wildlife Trust, Mary Immaculate College (UL), Inland Fisheries Ireland, Teagasc, Cork County Council (Planning, Roads and Environment sections), South Western Regional Authority, IRD Duhallow, Rural Social Scheme, Kanturk Trout Angling Club, Duhallow Bird Watch Group, Duhallow Environmental Working Group, Kanturk Chamber of Commerce, Office of Public Works and Environmental Protection Agency. Internationally this type of process is viewed as best practice for managing rivers. IRD Duhallow is delighted to be able to facilitate it, as it complements the objects of the LIFE project and future planning for long term maintenance work, once the project has finished.



Wildlife talks

Two wildlife talks will be held this month. The first will give an update of the project and provide an insight into a most unusual group of fish species found in the River Blackwater SAC.

Beauty and Beast: LIFE and lampreys: Thursday June 5th 2014

Dr. Fran Igoe, IRD Duhallow LIFE+ project

Fran will give an update on the LIFE project to date and provide an unusual twist, by focussing also on one of our more unusual fish groups: the lampreys. Feared by many, often despised by anglers, but loved by scientists; this unusual fish group and their interactions with other fishes is a fascinating story from the natural world.



The Birds of Duhallow: Thursday June 19th 2014

John Lusby, Birdwatch Ireland

John is well known in Duhallow for his work on barn owls, kestrels and other birds of prey. In this talk John will focus on the other birds within Duhallow including those closely associated with rivers. An update on the raptor work will also be given together with plans for the coming months.



Life to address EPA

The IRD Duhallow LIFE+ project has been invited to address the EPA national forum (National Water Event 2014: Protecting and Improving Water Quality) in recognition of the work carried out by the project with landowners in the catchment.

IRD Duhallow and the LIFE+ project

Management from IRD Duhallow and the LIFE+ team presented at the UK/Ireland information day in London. An overview of the project and IRD Duhallow's long term vision for a better economy and environment for everybody in Duhallow was given. The presentation generated substantial interest from the floor and we received quite a few requests to visit our project here in Duhallow.

Great start to volunteer programme



Our conservation volunteer programme got off to a great start in April. Work included the planting of native plants in the new ponds and constructed wetlands in the revamped pitch and putt course in Newmarket. The aim is to protect water quality in the adjacent salmon spawning stream which flows into the SAC. The new pond habitat will also provide habitat for dragonflies, newts and frogs. The sand martin artificial colony built on the bank of the River Dalua was also refurbished and painted to blend into the background.



The IRD Duhallow LIFE+ project would like to acknowledge and thank all of the landowners, supporters and volunteers for their assistance with the project to date. If you would like further information or would like to participate as a volunteer please contact us for further details. IRD Duhallow LIFE project: Tel: 029-60633 or check us out at www.duhallowLIFE.com



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