

Bill Goggins

From: Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 20 November 2021 15:56
To: IFD Public Consultations
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Opening Date for the River Slaney in 2022

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Below please see submission in relation to the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations 2021, to provide for the management of the wild salmon and sea trout fishery by Inland Fisheries Ireland from 1st January 2022.

This submission relates to THE RIVER SLANEY and in particular to the opening date for salmon anglers. In the absence of a date published within the draft we have been left with no choice but to make the assumption that opening and closing dates will be in line with 2021.

On Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 2:33 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
22nd October 2021

To: Minister Eamon Ryan
Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications

Re: Opening Date for the River Slaney in 2022

Dear Minister Ryan

My name is [REDACTED] and I have had the pleasure of fishing for Salmon and Seatrout on the River Slaney for many years. I am a very keen recreational angler take great pleasure in this outdoor activity. However, like many others, I believe there is a need to do everything in our power to conserve and protect our wild Atlantic salmon. They are a wonderful natural resource whose survival is coming under increasing pressure as time goes by. Much like other environmental issues, the conservation of Wild Atlantic Salmon is becoming increasingly time sensitive. In this regard, I am writing to you to request that you bring forward the opening date for the River Slaney, for Salmon and Seatrout angling in 2022, to 1st of March at the latest

My reasons for this request are as follows

The River Slaney is famous for its early run of Spring Salmon, beginning in February and March each year. These early-run spring salmon are particularly vulnerable to, and much sought after by, poachers. In recent years, these poachers have been relieved of the presence of legitimate anglers on the river bank during this period, thereby facilitating their illegal activity. Opening the river on March 1st will enable anglers to protect the river at a time when poachers are out in force.

The fishing season on the River Slaney, currently April to August, is already very short. In recent years, the lack of water during spring and summer months has led to long periods where the river is unfishable. Opening the river for Spring Salmon fishing in March, one of the best times of the year, will strengthen and grow the community of legitimate anglers.

Like many salmon anglers, I practice catch and release as a matter of preference, rather than solely as a response to rules and regulations. This method of angling is widely accepted to be an excellent and sustainable conservation measure. It has been shown to result in an extremely low mortality rate for fresh

run salmon. The situation is improved even further by the presence of cold water, which is the case in March.

I strongly believe that both our salmon, and our community of legitimate anglers, will benefit greatly from an earlier opening of the River Slaney in 2022 (on a catch and release basis). Implementing this change will also provide additional support to IFI staff in their battle to combat widespread poaching, an ever increasing threat to the future of Wild Atlantic Salmon on the River Slaney.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

--
[Redacted text]

