

Bill Goggins

From: Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 20 November 2021 15:54
To: IFD Public Consultations
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: River Slaney Opening Date 2022

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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 Thu, Oct 21, 2021 at 11:18 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Minister Ryan,

By way of background I am a Wicklow solicitor with a keen interest in Atlantic salmon conservation and fly fishing.

I am writing today to encourage change to the current Bylaws which I believe should be amended to allow for the opening of the river Slaney for catch and release fishing to the 1st March 2022, as was traditionally the case in years gone by.

This earlier opening would facilitate the protection of the river by anglers during this period when poachers are out in force. The Slaney has a unique early spring run of salmon and I myself have personal experience of moving local poachers from the river who are seeking to unlawfully harvest these fish despite the river being designated for "catch and release". In reality, the presence of genuine catch and release anglers saves the lives of salmon. Illegal fishermen and poachers intending to kill salmon will have no issue doing so even if the river is closed and with the Slaney closed between March and April they will have a free run at it during these prime months.

Needless to say catch and release fly fishing is an excellent and sustainable conservation measure with an extremely low mortality rate for fresh run salmon, improved even further by cold water which it will be the case in March. The benefit of allowing our presence on the river for the preservation of these fish is clear to see for anyone that knows the river system well and will far outweigh the benefit derived from closing the river for the month of March.

I hope that you will take the above onboard.

Many thanks for your time in reading my email.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature block]

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