

Bill Goggins

From: Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 20 November 2021 15:53
To: IFD Public Consultations
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Proposal for Slaney River Salmon Fishing 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 Tue, Oct 19, 2021 at 8:46 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Minister Ryan,

I am a life-long Salmon Angler, and full all-river Rod Licence Holder annual subscriber. I am resident in Co. Carlow, and I also fish, where possible, all over Ireland.

I appeal to you to extend the Catch-and-Release Opening and Closing dates on the River Slaney (and indeed elsewhere) to co-incide with the generally known runs of the Salmon.
As a minimum this should be from 1st March to 30th September.

Actually, the reason is NOT that I might catch more fish personally !! : It is that it would contribute greatly to ensure LESS FISH were KILLED and the work of the Fisheries Officers in combatting illegal fishing and Fish Killing, was supported and enhanced.

The presence of 'Legitimate' anglers on the River serves TWO important functions, and more besides:

1. Legitimate Rod Anglers are additional 'eyes and ears' to support the Fisheries Officers, whom they are pleased to support, encourage and inform.

As such, they are a deterrent to Poaching.

Poaching will NEVER, by definition, ever fulfil the conservation principles of 'Catch -and-Release'. The essence of Poaching is to kill fish. This inevitably impacts on breeding stock numbers.

Legitimate anglers will be sensitive to, and observant of, River Conditions (pollution) and, every bit as importantly, the presence of diseased fish.

2. Legitimate Fishers are a deterrent to Poachers, simply by their Presence and occupation of the river side !. Far more important though, is that they are Law-abiding by Nature and so will comply with the Bye-Laws, because they see the beneficial intent of those regulations.

Perhaps most beneficial of all is that Legitimate Anglers see the long-term NEED and BENEFITS of healthy salmon stocks in Ireland's rivers and are pleased to contribute towards increasing stocks, instead of depleting those stocks. They contribute to the local economies not only by their custom as 'tourists' or visitors. They also, especially if local, contribute to bank maintenance of the river, both financially and often in 'man'power.

Minister, we have seen it before: Restrictive closing of Rivers and Fisheries, bar in a state of emergency, mostly hurts and dispirits Legitimate Angling and its community benefits: restrictive closing does little, and if anything to improve, and arguably is counter-productive, in regard to unlawful and detrimental practices.

PLEASE extend the open season for catch-and-release. By the same token, and while you are kindly attending to this letter, PLEASE CONSIDER that FAR more improvement in Salmon stocks MUST require attention to management policies to contain predator numbers, particularly of Estuary Seals and Cormorants !

A single seal in the Estuary will deplete more breeding salmon from a river such as the Slaney in a season than ALL the ROD-Fishing 'pressure' on the WHOLE of the River.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

