

## Bill Goggins

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**From:** Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday 20 November 2021 16:11  
**To:** IFD Public Consultations  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Opening Date for the River Slaney in 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 Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 2:23 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Minister Ryan

My name is Andrew Pim and I fish on the River Slaney in Co. Wexford. I am writing to you regarding the opening of the river in 2022, and my concern that this will be delayed again, as in recent years. I am strongly of the view that the opening date for Salmon and Seatrout angling should be brought forward to **1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022**, at the latest.

My reasons for this view 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 the community of legitimate anglers, thereby giving new life to the river and its surrounds. It will encourage new anglers to get involved, thereby supporting the conservation effort.

I fully support the practice of catch and release. 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 during the month of 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, to the detriment of the poachers. I would therefore encourage you to allow for the river to open for salmon and seatrout angling (**on a catch and release basis**) on **1<sup>st</sup> March**, or earlier, as was the case for many years.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

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