

## Bill Goggins

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**From:** Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday 20 November 2021 15:59  
**To:** IFD Public Consultations  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: A Constituents Submission on the Opening Date of Salmon Fishing on the River Slaney

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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 Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 9:31 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Eamonn Ryan TD

Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications

Constituency Office

16-17 Suffolk Street

Dublin

D02 AT85

Dear Minister

I have been a salmon angler for the best part of 50 years, I am the owner of a recreational fishery on the river Slaney and a constituent of yours.

When you canvassed me before the last election I raised the environmental issues facing the Slaney (in particular the impact of the tailrace of the weir at Clohamon)

along with the frustration of legitimate anglers on the river arising from the delayed opening date of 1 April for fishing on what is primarily a spring salmon fishery with a traditional opening date of 26 February.

While the objective of putting the opening date back was inter alia the protection of the spring salmon stock its impact has been detrimental in that there are no legitimate anglers out on the bank at a period when the salmon are particularly vulnerable to poaching. IFI staff work hard to patrol river but their numbers are such that organised poachers can avoid them and those poachers know they will not be disturbed by legitimate anglers fishing on a catch and release basis. The survival rate of catch and release fishing in cold spring conditions is particularly high while each salmon landed by the poachers is a dead salmon.

Due to its location and structure the fish counter on the river records only a fraction of the salmon run and the absence of anglers means that there are no catch returns available to estimate the stock in the early part of the season which traditionally saw a large part of the run.

The shortened season makes the river less attractive to anglers which in turn further reduces the reported catches resulting in the perception that runs on the Slaney are very poor while in fact redd counts have greatly improved over recent years. The less anglers out on the river, the greater the danger of poaching, the lower the level salmon licence sales and the lower the revenue to local retail and hospitality businesses. IFI cannot actively promote the salmon fisheries of the East Coast while keeping the number one spring river closed during what is traditionally a peak period.

I am writing now in advance of the issue of the draft byelaws for the 2022 season from your department to ask that you to actively consider bringing the opening forward to 1 March for the 2022 season. I believe that this would be in the best interests of the river and all of its stakeholders not least the salmon.

I have copied this letter to IFI, your departments consultation site and the Slaney River Trust and very much hope you will be able to favourably consider this matter in conjunction with your officials.