

## Bill Goggins

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**From:** Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday 20 November 2021 16:42  
**To:** IFD Public Consultations  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: River Slaney opening 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 Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 12:22 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello

I have been a Slaney salmon angler for over 30 years. During those years I have seen a marked decline in the salmon run and particularly so in the last 10 years. There are a myriad of reasons for this decline and high on the list is the amount of illegal angling and poaching which the river suffers. All fish caught either by illegal angling or poaching are killed. With the rivers delayed opening it is leaving salmon very exposed to these factors. As far as I can determine poaching has increased over the years to a massive scale. On multiple occasions during the 2021 season I have witnessed illegal fishing taking place and have seen the results with dead fish on the bank. This activity usually stops when I and fellow anglers appear on the banks. The presence of legal anglers who release all hooked salmon and fish barbless fly only is a major deterrent to the illegal activity. Major studies in Scotland and elsewhere have proven beyond doubt that nearly 100% of caught and released fish successfully make it to spawn. For this reason I would suggest that the opening date for the Slaney be brought back to the 1st March 2022. I feel this would be hugely beneficial to the well being of the salmon stocks and a huge deterrent to illegal killing of fish. The early run spring salmon are particularly vulnerable to poaching and are a hugely threatened species under pressure everywhere.

I do appreciate that IFI officers do their utmost to protect the river but they are understaffed and under resourced. If the river opening is brought back to 1st March I feel it would be of assistance to the IFI staff in policing the river. I would ask that you take all of the above into consideration when deciding on opening for 2022 and subsequent years.

Kind Regards  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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