

Bill Goggins

From: Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 20 November 2021 16:37
To: IFD Public Consultations
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: River Slaney Salmon Angling Season 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 26, 2021 at 6:29 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

To Whom it May Concern

I am a long term fly fishing angler of the River Slaney. Down the years I have enjoyed starting my fishing season on the Slaney - some years from the 26th February, others on the 1st March and more recently on the 1st April. In the past fifteen years or so due to a significant decline in Spring salmon numbers returning to the river to spawn, the river was closed periodically to angling to facilitate the recovery of salmon numbers to the river. Unfortunately the closure of the river led to a dramatic increase in poaching by law breakers mainly by the use of rod and spinning lures. These poaching activities went largely unhindered due to pressures on fishery officer staff but more importantly through an absence of fishermen fishing the length of the river who acted as a deterrent to poaching.

The introduction of catch and release has been broadly welcomed by Slaney anglers as a necessary step to protect and allow Spring salmon numbers to recover to sustainable levels. I am fully supportive of this measure now and in future years. With the requirement to fish with a barbless either single or double hook, these measures ensure that those anglers fortunate to land a Spring salmon can return the fish unharmed and healthy to the river. As you are aware research has proven that recovery rates of catch and release salmon is in the region of 95% subject to the employment of recommended release techniques which in my experience all Slaney anglers carefully adhere to.

I would like to appeal to the appropriate Authority to recommend commencing the 2022 River Slaney angling season on the **1st March next** as against the **1st April**. As referred to above, this will provide a real deterrent to poachers who kill precious numbers of Spring salmon at a time of year when salmon numbers begin to return to their native river to spawn. Possible distressing of salmon who may be caught and released by anglers in March thereby affecting survival rates of the fish will not arise as mortality caused by distress mainly arises through high water temperatures in Summer months.

Mise le meas

[REDACTED]