

## Bill Goggins

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**From:** Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday 20 November 2021 16:05  
**To:** IFD Public Consultations  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Slaney 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 Sat, Oct 23, 2021 at 8:05 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Minister Ryan,

My name is [REDACTED] I co own the Clohamon fishery and am a director of the Slaney River Trust. I inherited the fishery from my great [REDACTED] when I was 18. I am now 41 and am passionate about the River Slaney and the fish that run it.

When I, together with my brother took over the running of the fishery I employed 2 part time Ghillies. Their role was to guide anglers and protect the fishery from poachers and predation. A high percentage of the I income generated from visiting anglers went towards paying these water keepers. In 2007 the river was fully closed to salmon fishing. This was a devastating blow to the fishery. Apart from being denied being able to enjoy my passion I had no income to employ anyone to protect the fishery. Since then until today the river has been open and closed at various times and unfortunately poachers have taken a strong foothold along the river as a result of the legitimate angler and associated ghillies, both of whom protect the river, being unable to fish at critical times.

One such time is March when spring salmon run. Poachers know this and have a free run during this period. Without anglers on my fishery and a ghillie to protect it we have no chance. I, together with many others strongly believe the opening date should change to the 1st March from 1st April.

The gain would be huge to the river, the loss negligible. Catch and release in cold water is proven to be sustainable with an extremely low mortality, far outweighing the damage poachers inflict in March while those who wish to practise catch and release are sitting at home.

We are not looking for tags to kill salmon, we are not looking for the river to be open in September as is normal on many other rivers. All we request is that we can fish on a catch and release basis from the 1st March. It would be a huge boost to the anglers, who's passion above all is to protect the Slaney Salmon.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]