

## Bill Goggins

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**From:** Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday 20 November 2021 16:09  
**To:** IFD Public Consultations  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: River Slaney opening date 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 12:33 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:  
Dear Minister Ryan,

As an angler and as representative of my family's fishery on the River Slaney at Kilcarrig, I would like to see the opening date for salmon fishing on the River Slaney restored to 1 March. I believe such restoration would not have any negative impact on salmon stocks as it would bring law abiding anglers onto the river in the early season which would act as a deterrent to those already fishing in contravention and illegally retaining salmon. Due to the nature of water flows on the river, the effective salmon fishing season is very condensed into a couple of months which can be further curtailed by low water conditions in a given year. The shortage of available rod days under the current regulations, in my view, is a deterrent to new anglers coming to the sport.

It is well accepted that fishing under the current fly only catch and release regulations does not cause any significant mortality or loss of spawning viability in stocks. In my experience, a large portion of salmon hooked come off the hook soon after hooking. Those that are brought in are released efficiently with minimum stress. Conversely, I have observed large barbed treble hooks used by poachers which would mean most fish hooked by them would be brought in and killed.

There is currently a growing interest in the angling community in protecting fish stocks and improving river surveillance to counter illegal killing of salmon. I believe restoration of the season would bring a renewal of interest and improve the protection of the threatened stock.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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