

Bill Goggins

From: Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 20 November 2021 15:52
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 Thu, Oct 21, 2021 at 7:44 PM David Mc Can <davidamccan@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Minister Ryan,

[REDACTED] is my name and I am an avid Angler and conservationist

I ask that the Bylaws should be amended for The River Slaney changing the opening date to the 1st March in 2022. To enable anglers to protect the river during this period when poachers are out in force.

Important point ---Early-run spring salmon are particularly vulnerable to poaching and must be protected.

Important point ,,,To strengthen the community of legitimate anglers by permitting them to fish at the one of the best times (March) of the year for Spring Salmon.

Important point ,, Catch and release is accepted to be an excellent and sustainable conservation measure with an extremely low mortality rate for fresh run salmon, improved even further by cold water which it will be in March.

Important point : the main concern of the SRT due to closing the river initially and now the shortened season is that poachers have thrived and continue to do so. The opportunity Covid presented compounded this. As you will see in our letter (attached) our request is that the river opens earlier on a catch and release basis. We believe this will reduce salmon mortality (as legitimate anglers will deter poaching) but also give a huge boost to those who run clubs in addition to riparian owners who have struggled to maintain viable fisheries in recent year

I therefore ask that the season opens on the 1st March in 2021, and that all other elements of the draft regulations remain the same, the most critical one of these being that fishing is permitted on a catch and release basis only. In the interests of protecting the river at its most vulnerable time the SRT are in the process of recruiting 10 water keepers, one of which will be employed and funded by the SRT's limited cash reserves. We will also continue to work on improving the Tailrace situation and appreciate very much the efforts IFI have shown and we look forward to working with them in 2021. We hope this demonstrate our commitment and credibility, and that our advice/request will be given serious consideration.

Kind Regards,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]