

Bill Goggins

From: Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 20 November 2021 15:58
To: IFD Public Consultations
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: River Slaney salmon fishing 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 Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 2:50 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Minister Ryan,

My name is [REDACTED] and as a life long river Slaney fisherman I am writing to you, once again, to change the salmon season start date from April 1st back to March 1st.

March is usually the prime month for spring salmon runs on the Slaney, both in numbers and the size of the fish. So, originally, it sounded logical to the powers that be, to stop all fishing in March as a conservation measure, to give these fish a clear run to their spawning beds. Personally, I didn't see the point if the river was catch and release anyway, if all genuine anglers were returning the fish, it shouldn't affect the stock numbers. Springtime is the best time for reviving and returning hooked fish as the water is cold, high and well oxygenated and salmon revive quickly and easily in these conditions, most swim off immediately.

When there are no anglers on the river in March, poachers think all their Christmases have come at once. They take full advantage of any stretch of water if there's nobody around, prime time of the year and nobody on the banks, 'ah sure this is great lads'.. and then, every Slaney fish landed in the month of March is DEAD.

We only have to look back to the 2017 season, when, against all protest and advice from fishermen, the river was closed for salmon fishing completely, and just as we predicted...with nobody on the banks, the river was fleeced by poachers for the whole year, not just March. What a great conservation success that was!!

Each year there seems to be more and more poaching going on I suppose because of little deterrent, poachers know there's not enough fisheries officers on the river to patrol all of it all the time and on the rare occasions that some are caught and prosecuted, the fines are an absolute joke, it doesn't deter any of them from going straight back out poaching again.

The Slaney River Trust has several private waterkeepers lined up since last year to help with fisheries protection, unfortunately, covid has been bogging down the red tape/ paperwork process for getting their cards issued but hopefully they will be sorted by opening day.

So, boiled down,
1st March 2022, bodies on the bank equals no poachers on the bank.
I hope this doesn't fall on deaf ears once again this year,

Regards
[REDACTED]