

## Bill Goggins

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**From:** Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday 20 November 2021 16:00  
**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 8:03 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:  
Dear Minister Ryan,

My name is [REDACTED]. I have been involved in the Tourism sector in Ireland specialising in Game Angling for around 40 years. Running my own small business as a Professional Fly Casting Instructor and International Fly Fishing Guide I take a strong interest in how the fisheries in Ireland are managed and looked after and with that in mind I believe a rethink regarding opening and closing times on our salmon rivers is appropriate particularly the River Slaney.

I think in regard to the River Slaney the bylaws should be amended to allow fishing to begin on the 01st March 2022. You may or may not be aware that historically fishing with rods used to begin in late February.

My reasoning for the earlier opening time to allow rod fishing in the case of the Slaney? The River Slaney has always been noted for it's early runs of spring salmon and this remains the situation at the present time. These are valuable target fish for salmon angling tourists and every opportunity should be available for future further development of this market sector.

As effective sustainable conservation is already in place and working well on the Slaney in the form of 'Catch & Release' fishing with methods restricted to "fly fishing" only. Data shows that mortality rates are very low with released fish surviving well and sparing normally. The cold water temperatures of early spring are known to be particularly favourable for the survival of released salmon.

I believe another important reason to allow the earlier season opening time on the Slaney is that when there is a legitimate angling presence poaching problems are greatly reduced. Poaching of these valuable spring salmon is a real problem on the Slaney and we all know and understand that fisheries board resources are already stretched to the limit so anything that helps alleviate this problem must surely be welcome.

I can see many positive reasons for the earlier start to the season and no negative reasons to allowing the season to begin on 01st March as supposed to leaving it at it's present date of 01st April.

I hope you will give consideration to the points I have outlined above and make the decision to allow the opening date to be changed from the current 01st April back to the 01st March for 2022 season.

Thank you in anticipation,  
[REDACTED]