

## Bill Goggins

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**From:** Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday 20 November 2021 16:03  
**To:** IFD Public Consultations  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re:

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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 2:09 PM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

### Re: Opening Date for the River Slaney in 2022

Dear Minister Ryan

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been fishing for Salmon and Seatrout on the River Slaney for almost 20 years. I am writing to you regarding the opening of the river in 2022, and my concern that this will be delayed again, as in recent years. I am strongly of the view that the opening date for Salmon and Seatrout angling should be brought forward to **1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022**, at the latest.

My reasons for this view are as follows;

The River Slaney is famous for its early run of Spring Salmon, beginning in February and March each year. These early-run spring salmon are particularly vulnerable to, and much sought after by, poachers. In recent years, these poachers have been relieved of the presence of legitimate anglers on the river bank during this period, thereby facilitating their illegal activity. Opening the river on March 1<sup>st</sup> will enable anglers to protect the river at a time when poachers are out in force.

The fishing season on the River Slaney, currently April to August, is already very short. In recent years, the lack of water during spring and summer months has led to long periods where the river is unfishable. Opening the river for Spring Salmon fishing in March, one of the best times of the year, will strengthen the community of legitimate anglers.

Like many salmon anglers on the Slaney, I am happy to practice catch and release as a matter of preference, rather than solely as a response to rules and regulations. This method of angling is widely accepted to be an excellent and sustainable conservation measure. It has been shown to result in an extremely low mortality rate for fresh run salmon. The situation is improved even further by the presence of cold water, which is the case in March.

I strongly believe that both our salmon, and our community of legitimate anglers, will benefit greatly from an earlier opening of the River Slaney in 2022 (**from 1<sup>st</sup> March, on a catch and release basis**), to the detriment of the poachers. In this regard, I would encourage you to allow the river open earlier in 2022, as used to be the case,

Yours sincerely