

Bill Goggins

From: Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 20 November 2021 15:42
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 9:40 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Minister Ryan,

Though I do not live near the River Slaney, I am lucky enough to fish it a few times a year. I write to you this morning to implore you to consider amending the bylaws for the Slaney in 2022. I hope that my perspective - as an angler that fishes other rivers in Ireland with earlier opening dates - can be useful to you in this matter.

I believe that delaying the opening of the river to legitimate salmon anglers is a false economy. In my years on the Munster Blackwater (which opens for salmon on the 1st of February), I have witnessed and reported spring salmon netting on a handful of occasions. These fish are particularly vulnerable to illegal harvesting. Legitimate, law-abiding fishermen like me are the number one defense against unlawful, and incredibly damaging poaching practices that are rife across Ireland.

The presence of anglers on the river bank is an obvious deterrent to poachers. I have no doubt that these bad-actors will travel to seek out "closed" rivers to exploit. Fresh (early spring) salmon sell for a pretty penny - to these poachers an unguarded river is seen as a gold mine. It is simply too much to ask a few fisheries officers to police.

For perspective, I'd like to point out that the spring salmon is incredibly difficult to catch by legal methods. In my years I have only managed two, both safely returned! But I have deterred at least five poachers I am aware of (and many more just by my presence). To me, the benefit of opening the river on March 1st is crystal clear.

I'm not aware of the specific fisheries officers who patrol the Slaney but I urge you to get in touch with them. They will tell you first hand the damage caused by illegal fishing and I'm sure they will reiterate the need for more law-abiding eyes on the river at such a dangerous time of year.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]