

Bill Goggins

From: Slaney River Trust SRT <slaneyrivertrust@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 20 November 2021 15:44
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 12:09 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:
FAO Minister Eamon Ryan

Dear Minister Ryan

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a fly fisherman on the River Slaney in Co Wexford. I am an active member of Mt Leinster Anglers Association, and our club waters are on the River Slaney, below Kildavin Bridge, Co Carlow. I fish for salmon and sea-trout during the fishing season, in accordance with all bye-laws, rules and regulations.

I am writing to you in relation to the upcoming annual publication of the Bye-Law relating to angling on the river Slaney for 2022. I am fully supportive of most of the measures contained in the 2021 Bye-Law and assume that most of those will remain in place for 2022. In particular, I am fully supportive of angling remaining as fly-only and catch and release only above Enniscorthy Bridge.

However, I urge you to consider changing the season opening date from April 1st (as it has been for the last number of years) to **March 1st**, for the following reasons:

- Poaching is a real and serious problem on the Slaney, particular during salmon season. There is no doubt that having legitimate, licenced anglers on the riverbank alleviates this problem to a large extent, so within reason – the longer the season, the less poaching
- The Slaney has always been renowned as a 'spring salmon' river i.e. with a good run of fresh salmon in spring time. The poachers know this as well as the legitimate anglers. An unintended consequence of having the opening day on April 1st gives the poachers 'free-reign' during what can be one of the best months for salmon fishing on the Slaney.
- To my knowledge, part of the reason for having a 1st April opening date in previous years was as a conservation measure. With all licenced anglers now practicing catch and release this is no longer a concern as all fish are safely returned to continue their onward journey. The real conservation gain would be to allow the licenced anglers to fish from March 1st, thus negating the effect of the poachers

In summary - I urge you to include March 1st as the opening date for salmon/sea trout angling on the river Slaney for 2022

Regards