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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday 11 November 2022 12:09  
**To:** IFD Public Consultations  
**Subject:** Re: Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2022

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To whom this may concern,

As an avid fisherman and catch and release enthusiast who fishes the River Moy, Owenmore and Glenamoy Rivers regularly, I would like to give my input on the amendments and regarding the closure of rivers. To me this looks like yet another easy cop out from Inland Fisheries. While penalising the anglers yet again with no foresight or suggestion as to how to improve salmon and seatrout stocks.

The ever present elephant in the room being, bycatch from trawlers, pair trawling for sprat, massive numbers of seals, cormorants and herons, coupled with pollution directly into our waterways being the leading factors, none of which have been addressed by yourselves. There is raw sewage being pumped into the River moy in at least 3 locations for decades now, yourselves and Mayo County Council have been made aware of this. Dawn foods is pumping effluent into the River Boyne which is the most sacred river in the country, this you are also aware of and have done nothing to stop.

I like all other anglers, spend thousands on fishing every year and get more and more disheartened every year. I know of dozens of poachers who absolutely love the idea of rivers being completely closed. The fact of the matter is, anglers are the eyes and ears on the river and the majority of which are the greatest conservationists going. A closed river loses these eyes and ears. Worst case scenario should be single barbless hooks, fly only but absolutely no river should be completely closed, this just gives poachers free reign. Inland fisheries do not have enough people on the ground to police river closures, that is an undeniable fact.

In particular the River Glenamoy should not be made catch and release. For 2 reasons, 1 it costs €130 a year to fish it, its super spatey, it is already fly only, rises and drops in a matter of hours so there will never be a large percentage of the run caught on rod and line. 2. I fish it regularly and it is the heaviest poached river I have ever seen, it is netted in broad daylight by 3 or 4 different gangs of individuals, there is one road in and one road out, the gangs of poachers watch the fisheries better than the fisheries watch them. Catch and release on this river is absolutely pointless, a conversation with any of your own Inland Fisheries Officers who police it will confirm this. Rod and line anglers pay enough to enjoy the fruits of a good run.

It is high time Inland fisheries considered putting hatcheries on the rivers which are in major decline, most of which have gone beyond the point of repair. Regardless of peoples opinions on hatcheries, a trip to Cong or Galway weir will prove their skepticism as mere conjecture. Closing rivers is not a solution, it's a cop out.

Also I have a suggestion regarding the quotas. Why not draft up a bye law or emergency legislation so in times of severe drought rivers be put on catch and release if deemed necessary? Why make projections after a year of drought? Who is to say 2023 couldn't be one of the wettest years on record and we end up getting a good run of fish with a surplus.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
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