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From: y
Sent: Tuesday 17 February 2026 09:17
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2025 and Conservation Measures for the 2026 Season
Attachments: 20260214 KSTAC Submission to Wild Salmon & Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations 2026.docx

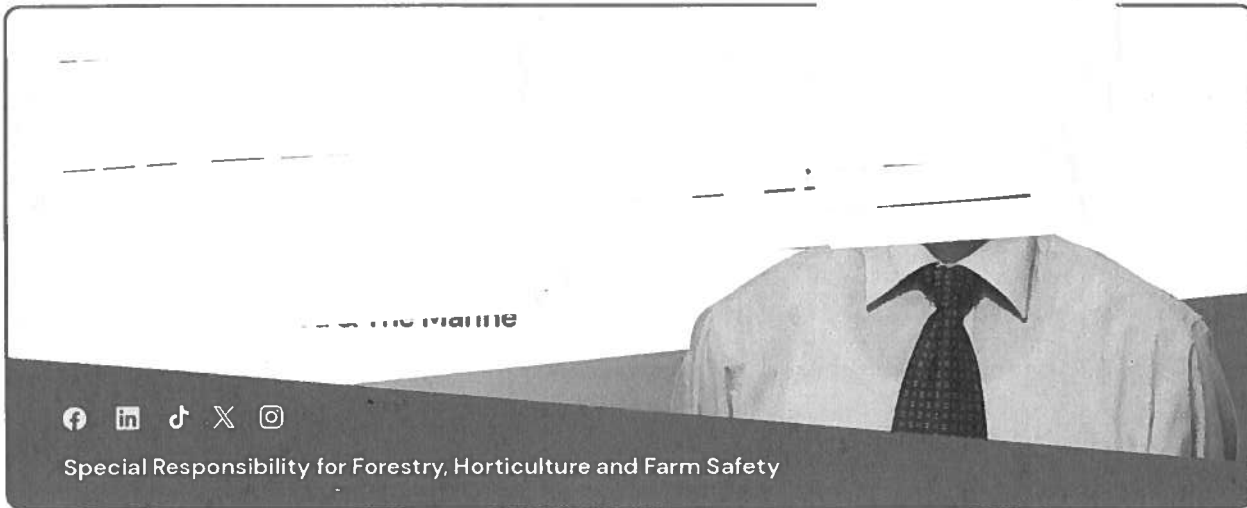
From:
Sent: Monday 16 February 2026 16:33
To:
Subject: (Amendment) Regulations 2025 and Conservation Measures for the 2026 Season

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Hi

I hope you are well. Can you take a look at the below email and attachment and come back to me with a response on their concerns and the reasoning behind another public consultation.

Yours Sincerely,



Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act
Oifigeach Ainmnithe de reir Acht um Brústocaireacht a Rialail

From _____
Sent: Monday 16 February 2026 15:22
To
Subject:
Regulations 2025 and Conservation Measures for the 2026 Season

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Good Afternoon

_____, I am sorry to be taking of your time on the matter that is foremost on the angling front at the moment - you have more than enough to be contending with in your own Department and for the wider Kerry Constituency but I feel that I need to bring to your attention the following matter on behalf of the members and wider angling community in Killarney with regard to I _____ latest dalliance with Kerry anglers and their sport.

_____, has seen fit to open a second public consultation with a view to amending the salmon angling regulations nationwide in 2026. The initial consultation closed just before Christmas, anglers gave frank and factful feedback as requested and word filtered through in early January that the status quo would exist for 2026 as the consultation process would be reviewed, and anglers hoped that meaningful discussions would take place with anglers and affected parties. But it appears to the lay man that the Department did not get the submissions that suited them and lo and behold a fresh consultation process is put in train as the season is underway and with tourist and local anglers purchasing their salmon angling licences and partaking in their sport.

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is professing that "The continued decline in stocks is of great concern to me " while the same Minister looks to inhibit anglers from fishing as was their custom and practice up to June, instead nominating that they have to release any fish caught , no matter what condition they are in and then allow Nets men to harvest 2623 Salmon from the Laune Catchment in June and July . I need not tell you that the mood amongst our members is furious on this matter. (For note Michael - The Department have decreed that there are 3013 fish harvestable on the Laune estuary and river catchment in 2026 , 2623 of these to be scooped up by nets and 390 to be allowed to be rod caught by local or visiting anglers) .

The inability of the Minister and his Department to sit down with angling bodies to discuss the very important actions needed by all parties to preserve Salmon and Sea trout stocks is mesmerising. It is very interesting that at no stage did Inland Fisheries Ireland either make any approaches to angling bodies to discuss their concerns with them and work with anglers, rather the preferred route is to dictate to them and ignore their experience and input. Two public consultation attempts and the associated costs instead of consulting and working with anglers who have the preservation of the stocks for future generations embedded in their DNA !. Reading through the submissions sent in from around the country in the initial consultation , you can see the level of knowledge that anglers have on their local catchments and the pride and concern they have of their local environment and its stocks.

We in the ~~Castlemain Estuary and Laune River~~ are asking you to intercede on our behalf with your Government colleague and explain to him that before he can be taken in any way serious about wanting to preserve Salmon and Seatrout stocks for present and future generations in Kerry , he needs to :

- 1) Open meaningful discussions with the nets men licenced on the Castlemain Estuary and Laune River with a view to arranging a financial buyout of the commercial netting and set aside for any commercial harvesting of the stocks
- 2) Realise that the angling season is not uniform around the country and if he liaised with anglers he would be told that to condense the season into 3 months will not aid preservation of stocks but instead denude the lakes and rivers of the presence of anglers for the remainder of the year and offer a carte blanche for illegal poaching activities to be conducted unchecked , as with the greatest respect to the local Inland fisheries enforcement , they cannot be everywhere and without anglers reporting in activities observed by them when out on the rivers and lakes , their task is exceedingly more difficult.
- 3) Acknowledge the impact of his proposals on the local communities - angling tourism is not traditionally condensed into the main tourist months of June to August but rather spread throughout the year with welcome presence locally during shoulder season , thus maintaining employment and turnover in all parts of the County .
- 4) Acknowledging that also caught up in this are our elderly retired anglers - their social activities in the main center around meeting up with fellow peers on the banks or on the piers as they typically spend a few hours out in the air at their sport - too fresh in our minds still are the side effects of the Covid lockdown and how that impacted our elderly population when they were contained and not able to mix freely - no doubt you too Michael have all too real experiences of meeting up with people who can tell you the effects that had on their relatives and neighbours - while of course not on that scale , we are obliged to reflect the potential impact that advising the elder statesmen and women of our angling community in this county that they can't go fishing now in the late spring and early

summer as if they catch and inadvertently have to dispatch a damaged fish , they will be liable for prosecution - despite have purchased a state licence as required and maintained a law abiding life in their working years.

, you are around long enough and have experienced enough to realise that if you want to succeed at something , you bring people with you rather than force them into something - you get greater buy in and instead of having to beat a drum yourself , you have a multitude taking ownership of the cause and working in tandem - your Government colleague needs to realise that this is the best way to get things done in this county and in the wider country on the matter of stock preservation

I attach the submission made to the Ministers Department and cordially ask that you would take up the plight of the by raising these concerns with your party colleague , in the hope that he may take on board valuable advice from a more experienced and learned government colleague such as your good self ?

Many Thanks in Advance ,

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo, agus in aon cheangaltáin leis, faoi rún agus tá sé dírithe ar an bhfaighteoir/na faighteoirí beartaithe amháin agus níor cheart ach dóibh siúd é a úsáid. D'fhéadfadh an t-eolas seo a bheith faoi réir pribhléid dhlíthiúil agus ghairmiúil. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo, nó aon chuid di, a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh nó a choinneáil. Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo go hearráideach, cuir an seoltóir ar an eolas láithreach agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó chóra(i)s do ríomhaire, le do thoil.



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Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2026

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14/02/2026

**Re: Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment)
Regulations 2026**

Dear Sir / Madam,

As a locally based angling club, representing anglers in the
county of Kerry, we would like to make the following submissions to
the latest Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment)
Regulations 2026

- 1) **The removal of commercial netting on the catchment is a fundamental point that should see netting cease immediately.** No one believes a word from the Department or its Minister on their concerns about Salmon stocks while licencing commercial netting at the same time. As per the proposal , 2623 Salmon would be allowed to be netted on our rivers and estuary while in all the catchment it was deemed that anglers could take 390 fish only. Consultation and dialogue need to commence with net's men with regard to the future of our treasured salmon and seatrout stocks and if there is netting present on the rivers and estuaries, no proposals on protecting stocks can be taken seriously. The nets men, unlike the recreational anglers , rely partially on the income from netting for their livelihoods and have had for generations - they will need to be suitably reimbursed to put aside the nets in any future progress to implement salmon protection and this needs to be implemented soonest.

- 2) **Traditional angling in the [redacted] catchment has a season from the 17th of January to the 30th of September and most anglers would fish from the start of the season to June.** The runs of Salmon , the weather conditions and both water levels and quality all go into the mix when an angler would contemplate going on the water -for example in low water levels anglers do not typically fish as the stock present would be stressed , or in flood or spate waters , anglers do not venture out - this is in no way reflected in analysing the proposed season in the draft as running from June to August inclusive. The season as proposed does not reflect correctly the custom and practice that has existed for generations and will not assist in any way the stocks in our eyes , but only condense the season into a short and stressful period for the fish while not having anglers about on lakes and river banks for the remainder of the traditional season , giving free reign to illegal netting and poaching practices.

3) Within immediate grasp of the Department are a number of measures that would have very quick impact on the Salmon Stock survival –

The continued licencing of Fish farms on our coastline is detrimental to salmon smolts as the lice present is causing a very high mortality as indicated in many independent studies published – discontinue licencing , withdraw existing licences and once the farms are destocked , the prevalence of sea lice will dramatically reduce and along with it the ongoing treat to our smolts.

The Cormorant threat to the population of young salmon smolt, which, as is well known, migrates to the ocean in small schools ,is becoming obvious on the River Laune presently . Unfortunately, these birds are capable of significantly depleting the population of these fish.

Many European Union countries, such as Denmark, France, and Germany, have been actively managing the cormorant population for years, including planned reduction culling and the destruction of breeding grounds to protect native fish species. Furthermore, the European Parliament has already called in its resolutions for the development of pan-European solutions to limit the growing damage to fisheries and freshwater biodiversity.

European Union regulations—specifically the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)—allow for derogations (exceptions) from the strict protection of cormorants to manage their impact on fisheries and aquaculture. While the Great Cormorant is protected under the Directive, Article 9 provides a legal framework for Member States to implement control measures, such as culling or nest destruction, under specific conditions. This should be trialled as well on important spawning waters to protect future stocks of Salmon.

- 4) Locally in the Killarney Valley we would see a fair compromise regarding the proposal of Anglers being issued with only 7 tags for use as follows instead of the proposed season of June to August :
- From the 17th January to 12th of May – 3 tags to be issued
 - From the 12th of May to the 30th of June – 3 tags to be issued
 - From the 01st of July to the 30th of September – 1 tag to be issued
- This format will allow anglers to always have a tag in their possession in the event of fishing on a catch and release basis , landing a fish that is injured and the fish can be dispatched humanely and tagged to ensure angler is compliant with the law. (In the past any club member wishing to fish and release would always have been covered by a tag in such an event.)

By applying these measures for our catchment ,with a recognised sustainable surplus for the 2026 season of 3013 fish , we feel that a balance is achieved between implementing significant conservation measures for our wild Atlantic Salmon, whilst preserving and acknowledging traditional salmon angling interests, nurturing the next generation of juvenile anglers and maintaining the tourism jobs and livelihoods that this activity supports .

Many Thanks for your time with this submission,

Yours Sincerely,

