

From:
Sent: Wednesday 4 March 2026 14:08
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Proposed Salmon Regulations 2026

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Dear Sir / Madam.

My name is [redacted] I hold a Snap Net Licence J18 and I am fully compliant with the current Salmon Fishing Regulations and Logbook Returns. I wish to make a submission regarding the new Regulations for 2026.

I believe that these Regulations are being rushed into law and that sufficient time and consideration has not been given for the contributions that the many stakeholders may wish to forward. The river Blackwater has flowed since the Ice Age, the salmon have swam in this river and the fishermen have fished for them for generations and generations. Why is there such a rush to pass these regulation over Christmas? Is it because it has not been given sufficient thought by the regulators, based on sound and accurate Data evidence? Is the political pressure from NASCO, TEGOS and the European Overlord causing an ill considered knee jerk reaction by the dysfunctional IFI?

I attended a meeting at the IFI District Offices in Macroom on Tuesday 9th December 2025. Sean Long, IFI, gave a presentation on the background to these new regulations. He said he "agreed that this is a very tight timetable"

I am aware of the serious issues that my colleagues have with the accuracy and dependability of the Scientific Data that TEGOS are working with. I am aware of the issues been raised including: Overfishing of Salmon at Sea.

- Outdated CWF Data
- Incomplete and outdated (Angler) Log book Returns.
- Salmon Farms' Sea lice and escapee issues.
- Cormorant and Seal predation issues.
- Fish Counter unreliability. etc, etc.....

However I want to tell you what Snap Net fishing means to me.

I live on the banks of the River Blackwater. My father, grandfather and uncles were all fishermen and it is from them that I inherited the skills of a Fisherman and developed the skills of identifying the influence of tides and weather on my beloved Salmon fishing. I am in my late sixties and I live on my own. I do not take a drink. My friends are mostly those I have met through Salmon fishing. My topics of conversation are based on the fishing and the weather associated with this Salmon fishing. My Social Outlets are fishing related. Fishing is an inherent way of life for me. It is my identity. My reason for being! Why take this from me with a swift stroke of a pen held in the hand of weak data led Scientist or a Political Beauracrat doing a deal in Europe.

My fish catch is very small and many might say it is not worth the bother. But it is my inheritance and my identity.

I ask you to give our submissions due consideration. Thank you for reading my submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Date: 3rd March 2026

Dear Minister and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) representatives

Please find below an Addendum to my Round 1 Submission [attached] from December 2025

The forementioned was my submission for round 1 of the 2026 Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations

Subsequently, I discovered, as per email from Sean Long, River Basin District Director, Munster Blackwater that there is now a TEGOS Calculated Surplus of 1317 harvestable catch for the Munster Blackwater for the coming season. However, IFI claim that this surplus has an “Unmanageable risk of over exploitation”.

Given that traditional net fishing on the River Blackwater takes place in a very confined and localised area, bounded by public roads and easy river accessibility, surely IFI’s inability to “manage” this surplus is a very poor reflection on the organisation.

Precedent has been set on rivers with far less quotas, and these are deemed “manageable” and will be open for harvest this season. There is a legitimate expectation that should a surplus exist, then fishing should be permitted. Where is the consistency and transparency from this IFI approach?

The Blackwater has the last remaining 20-yard Snap Net Fishing Tradition in Ireland. This is our heritage, not financially motivated, that runs the risk of being wiped out at the stroke of a pen!

Yours sincerely,