
From:
Sent: Friday 13 February 2026 10:21
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: River Slaney closure to licenced fishers

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my opposition to the decision to keep the River Slaney closed until the 1st of June.

Keeping the river closed during this period makes it more vulnerable to poaching, as the absence of responsible anglers means fewer eyes on the water. Legal anglers play a key role in deterring and reporting illegal activity.

Scientific evidence shows that only around 2% of catch-and-release salmon die. Last year, out of approximately 50 recorded salmon on the Slaney, legal anglers killed just two fish. In contrast, our presence on the river likely prevented far greater losses from illegal fishing. Without anglers on the river, there is little doubt that more salmon would be taken unlawfully.

It is my firm opinion as a local and responsible fisherman that the proposed closure of the River Slaney for salmon angling during spring 2026 is an ill-informed and ill-thought-out approach to salmon conservation.

If lawful anglers are discouraged from having a regular presence on the riverbank, the salmon population will be exposed to unlawful anglers and unlawful methods. I myself have witnesses poaching many times when I have fished during the open season. Imagine when there is no fishermen on the banks how many fish will be taken illegally by poachers using very illegal methods, at the least spinners and worm, at the worst nets and electro shock.

These methods can capture greater numbers of salmon than the lawful methods used by lawful anglers.

Unlawful anglers are only interested in killing fish.

Furthermore, there are insufficient fisheries officers available to provide adequate protection, and it is essential that the presence of lawful anglers on the riverbank is encouraged in order to operate as a source of dependable and up-to-the-minute information for fisheries staff, and as a deterrent to unlawful fishing.

For these reasons, I believe controlled access to the river would better protect the fishery than an extended closure.

Kind regards,