
From:
Sent: Thursday 5 March 2026 17:29
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Submission to Salmon and Sea Trout Regulation 2026

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With more pressures than ever, we need to come together to protect the future of Irish salmon stocks, that is strikingly clear.

Therefore, much of these new regulations will have a positive impact which is encouraging. Less tags and further regulations closer to spawning time can only benefit. Personally I believe that 7 tags is much more than enough to satisfy the needs of recreational anglers without having a negative impact our economic gains from salmon angling in Ireland.

However, there are a few things in the regulations that deeply disappoint me. Most notably, the closure of Salmon rivers. Especially the River Duff. A river that I believe is not in a critical situation. I have fished this river myself for over 20 years. Since the river re opened as catch and release I have only seen a positive trend in returning salmon. This is first hand experience from myself who is regularly on the banks. Not inaccurate tests or surveys. The duff missed the conservation target for catch and release by less than 1 fry count on average. I don't believe this is a fair reflection on the rivers state nor is it accurate.

What hurts almost as much as not being able to fish this healthy river is the negative impact this closure will have on the local community and businesses.

I work in a nearby tackle shop. Many of its customers fish this river along with seasonal visitors who have now chosen not to fish.

This cannot be right. We should not be closing our rivers to those who care about them the most. The closure can only benefit those who wish to fish illegally.

Another part of the regulations I discussed agree with is imposing catch and release until June. Whilst I am catch and release only angler, I use barbed hooks as salmon are hard enough to hook, nevermind land.

Treble hooks do harm fish. But barbed doubles and singles are very fish friendly.

However, catch and release only methods until June is something us anglers can live with. But forcing us off the rivers that we love and care about is not in the best interests of its fish stocks as we are the people that care about them the most. By us being on the banks protecting these rivers I firmly believe we can make a positive impact.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Regards,

Sent from my iPhone