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From:
Sent: Monday 16 February 2026 10:56
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Draft Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2026
Attachments: Slaney Observation 2026 Second Consultation pdf.pdf

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

Dear sirs

Please see attached observation.

Kind regards

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IFDPublicConsultations@dcee.gov.ie

Minister of State, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment

16th February 2026

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

Dear I

I refer to your latest draft regulations above, and specifically in relation to the **River Slaney**, for 2026.

I would strongly encourage you to change your approach minister, and to embrace the large community of legitimate anglers as a powerful resource in the fight to protect our Wild Atlantic Salmon. By putting us off the river until the 31st of May, I fear you will only further alienate and discourage those of us who are enthusiastic about conservation, while becoming increasingly fearful for the future of our wild Atlantic salmon.

I would remind you Minister, that we are the eyes and ears on the riverbank. Our presence provides a significant deterrent to the poachers, who target our coveted multi sea winter fish. Not only are we able to provide real time information as regards poaching, but we also watch the river for water quality, pollution, and illegal water extraction.

Our experience on the River Slaney over many years has shown that the bulk of poaching activity coincides with the peak run of these Spring fish in April and May. Closing the river to anglers until the 31st of May would allow poachers unchallenged access during this critical period, with obvious consequences.

Scientific evidence has indicated a mortality rate of 2% of fish during catch- and- release. Out of approximately 50 Salmon recorded by legitimate anglers on the Slaney last year, only two fish were killed. This pails into insignificance when compared to the numbers taken by illegal means.

Considering the above, please re-instate the 17th of March opening of the River Slaney, on a catch and release basis.

Yours sincerely