

SLANEY RIVER TRUST

Dear Members

It's nearly that time of year again for wetting our lines on the Slaney. Exciting for many in search of a beautiful Slaney springer.

As you probably know, the opening date for salmon fishing will once again be the 1st April, unchanged despite a coordinated and concerted effort by the board and you our members to secure an earlier date.

We have been inundated with complaints in relation to IFI's stance and lack of cooperation on this issue, which we all know has resulted in poachers securing an ever-stronger foothold along the river. Our members are clearly exasperated. We have done our best to represent your views. Despite over 100 observations submitted by Slaney anglers, we were it seems completely ignored. IFI did publish multiple press releases stating they had received over 100 submissions; however, they chose not to mention that almost the entire amount related to the opening date on the Slaney. Equally, they chose not to mention that these requests were dismissed. We are at a loss as to why the process is referred to as a "Consultation Process". It is clearly quite the opposite. Despite this one-sided affair, we will not stop in our efforts to secure an earlier opening date and will be calling on you once again at the end of 2022 to make your voices heard. Exactly how is yet to be determined.

On a more positive note, the SRT has successfully initiated the appointment of seven Private Water Keepers who have been approved by the courts. This has been a long-drawn-out process, but we have finally prevailed. The extra Water Keepers should help restrain some of the poaching.

A continued effort has been made by the board in relation to the planning application for a new screen at the outflow from the Clohamon tailrace. This project is tough and is continuing to test the patience and resolve of members of our board who continue to commit a huge amount of personal time and effort to the cause. Having to deal with so much red tape is frustrating to say the least. The latest of which is to answer to the National Parks and Wildlife Service on questions relating to the final application documents. We do though see light at the end of the tunnel and are more hopeful than ever of finally being in a position to lodge the planning application.

In addition to the screen project, The SRT have also undertaken to revisit the planning application for a Rocky Ramp fish pass on Clohamon Weir. A bequeath was given solely for the construction of such a fish pass and there is a time limit

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Committee: R Burgess, (Chairman), B Connolly, D Dobbs (Treasurer & Deputy Chairman), R Harvey, K Murphy, S O'Brien, S Orr, D Ryan (Secretary) N Scott, K Whelan, P Wadding, C White

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for the use of this fund. We hope to have meetings with all stakeholders shortly in relation to this.

And very briefly in relation to 2021, I believe the river fished well with salmon being caught throughout the whole system from early in the season. This was possibly because the river had continuous high water until early May allowing easier passage at Clohamon. Hopefully we get a repeat this year. This healthy run was reflected in what we believe was also a strong spawning year so there is a lot to be hopeful for.

Finally, I once again invite you to our AGM which will be held on 24th of March in Bunclody Golf Club. I hope as many as possible can make it. Consideration will be given to seating arrangements with respect to Covid and a Zoom link will also be emailed to those who can't attend in person. And don't forget, please do continue to support the SRT by joining in 2022. By joining you will be covered under our Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance cover, details of which can be found on our website. You will also be emailed a password for the River Cam. Please also note the annual Slaney River Trust and Slaney Rodfishers accounts have been prepared and are available to view on our website.

Many thanks again for your continued support and I hope to see you at the AGM.

Kind Regards

Richard Burgess
Chairman

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