

## **Prague's Střelecký Island will be the venue of the premier Fish Festival – a celebration of fish, fishermen and gastronomy**

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**(Prague, October 1<sup>st</sup> 2008) – Already on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October Střelecký Island in Prague will see the break out of the two day celebration called the Fish Festival. An event, which this year is taking place for the first time ever, is simultaneously accompanying the third season of the Prague fly-fishing Orvis Cup 2008. Fish Festival is intended not only for fishermen. A rich program will in fact appeal to everyone, who likes to enjoy fish specials, listens to Czech music or for example likes to take part in competitions for interesting prizes.**

*"Event, even closely resembling the Fish Festival, has not so far taken place in the Czech metropolis. We wanted to prepare a festivity for the people of Prague, which would continue in the tradition of the fly-fishing race the Orvis Cup, would be a celebration of fish, fishermen as well as gastronomy related to fish, and at the same time would offer them two days of entertainment in beautiful area of the Vltava riverbank. Fish Festival brings a broad spectrum of enjoyment for the entire family and admission of course is free for everyone,"* such is the invitation by Petr Banáčan, business director of Taiko Corporation, which is also the organizer of the Fish Festival

Fish Festival will take place around the Střelecký Island and will go on starting on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. Lovers of good food are awaited by an interesting program – Chef Ivan Vodochodský will teach them to prepare fish specials, in a so called sushi point they will get to try real Japanese sushi, and on the contrary in the Fishermen Citadel they will get a taste of traditional Czech fish. Visitors can also look forward to hits by the group Laura a její tygři or the performance by the groups Fiakr and Václav Marek Trio.

Weekend in downtown Prague will also be devoted to children. Especially for them there is the Water Sprite Olympics for attractive prizes, fairytale Kvak and Žbluňk by the Bilbo Compagnie Theater and also autograph session with actors Lubomír Lipský, Pavel Trávníček and the famous Czech fisherman Jakub Vágner. And what they can look forward to the most is the parade of masks on Saturday, which will go around the Střelecký Island. Everybody, who will arrive to the Fish Festival in a fish mask, will receive a small reward!

For ones interested there will an opportunity to tryout fishing techniques in a fly-fishing school under the supervision of a five time world champion Karel Světelský. Furthermore, for those of you interested we've prepared lectures, presentation of fishermen or outdoor equipment and also testing of rods. Sunday program will culminate with the declaration of the Orvis Cup 2008 winners and the awarding of prizes at 14:30.

More detailed information can be found at [www.fishfestival.cz](http://www.fishfestival.cz).

### **Orvis Cup 2008 will attract top fly-fishermen from all corners of the world**

Third season of the Prague fly-fishing race Orvis Cup 2008 will take place around the Střelecký Island from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. Registration for competitors will take

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place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October starting at 17:00. First two rounds of the race will start on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 12PM; final third round will start on Sunday at 9:30AM.

During the first weekend of October Prague will come alive with this prestigious race, which will be attended by more than 150 top fly-fishermen from Czech Republic, Slovakia, but also from Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Poland and Romania. And even David Sokolowski from Nový Bor, the last year's winner, will not be missing.

*"Of course, I will try and defend my last year's top place finish. However, it will not be an easy task – just because this year includes the fresh European champion Luboš Roza,"* comments David Sokolowski.

Orvis Cup 2008 is again taking place under the patronage of the Prague Mayor Pavel Bém. *"Also this year the fly-fishermen are awaited by tough competitions and a race, which as the only one in the world takes place at the center of a large metropolis. The main focus of the race however is not just a struggle for valuable prizes. It is mainly the effort to make the Czech metropolis a center of fly-fishing art and to bring closer to the residents of Prague the successes of our fly-fishermen at the world championships,"* says Jiří Voráček, the guarantor of the Prague fly-fishermen race the Orvis Cup.

On Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup> the organizers of the Fish Festival and Orvis Cup have released into the Vltava ten thousand rainbow trout. This event on the Střelecký Island was started by the Mayor of Prague Pavel Bém. *"Fish will be caught by the competitors according to the rule "catch and release" on hooks with no counter spike. Awe started putting fish into this area already in the spring, when two thousand trout were added to the Vltava. This year's conditions for catching on an artificial fly will be outright ideal!"*, adds Jiří Voráček, the guarantor of the Prague fly-fishermen race the Orvis Cup.

Fly-fishermen will go head to head in a contest for prizes totaling 125 thousand Crowns. Race winner will get a rod Hélios 905-4 MID with complete equipment and on top of that a five liter barrel of beer. More rods will go to the competitors who will finish in the top ten. Other prizes will be given to the oldest and the youngest Orvis Cup competitor and for the longest fish caught.

## **Contact for more information**

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