

Press Release:

Hornád Open 2026

A Fly Fishing Event Driving Conservation and Community Impact.



The Hornád Open 2026 Organizing Team

PRESS RELEASE

Hornád Open 2026 – More Than a Fly Fishing Competition

Košice Region, Slovakia — March, 2026

A passionate group of fly fishing enthusiasts is turning sport into purpose with the launch of the **Hornád Open 2026**, an international fly fishing competition taking place on **May 30, 2026, in and around Veľká Lodina**. But this event is about much more than competition — it is a platform for conservation, community engagement, and the restoration of one of Slovakia's most valuable river ecosystems.

A Vision Rooted in Conservation

The Hornád Open was born from a shared vision: to support the reinstatement of a **catch-and-release section** in the Hornád River's trout waters. This goal has already been achieved, following strong approval at the latest general assembly of the fishing association.

With improved fishery management and growing public awareness, the long-term ambition is to **restore a healthy population of native fish species**, particularly brown trout.

Addressing Critical Environmental Challenges

Today, the Hornád River faces mounting ecological pressures, including:

- Increasing damage from invasive cormorants
- Rising water temperatures
- Pollution
- Illegal fishing (poaching)

These threats endanger the river's delicate ecological balance and require coordinated, long-term action.

Building Momentum: “Pstruhy, pod’te domov”

A major milestone was reached in 2025 with the launch of the conservation initiative “**Pstruhy, pod’te domov**” (“**Trout, Come Back Home**”). This program involves:

- Planting and nurturing brown trout eggs in local streams
- Releasing young fish into the Hornád River
- Engaging local volunteers and schoolchildren in conservation efforts

This initiative represents a practical and community-driven approach to restoring native fish populations.

An International Event Gaining Rapid Attention

The Hornád Open has already attracted strong international interest. Within one week of announcing the event, competitors from **Hungary, Serbia, Poland, Czechia, the Netherlands**, and the **Slovak Youth National Team** registered to participate.

The competition will follow strict environmental standards:

- Catch-and-release only
- Barbless hooks
- Maximum care for fish handling and river protection

Driving Awareness, Tourism, and Local Impact

Beyond sport, the Hornád Open aims to:

- Increase public awareness of river conservation
- Attract partners and sponsors to support long-term initiatives
- Boost fly fishing activity and tourism
- Increase fishing license sales, generating funds for local conservation and river management

A Call for Responsible Leadership

The organizers are inviting companies and institutions to become official partners of the Hornád Open.

This is not just sponsorship — it is an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and commitment to environmental responsibility.

Partners will receive:

- Brand visibility across event materials, website, and social media
- Public recognition as supporters of conservation

- Invitations to an exclusive Sponsor Evening with networking opportunities
- A meaningful story to share with their customers and community

A Shared Responsibility

The Hornád River, flowing through the stunning Slovenský raj and surrounding regions, is a natural treasure that connects communities, outdoor enthusiasts, and future generations.

The Hornád Open 2026 represents a collective step toward protecting that legacy.

For media inquiries, partnerships, or further information, please contact:
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About Hornád Open

The Hornád Open is an international fly fishing competition dedicated to promoting sustainable fishing practices, environmental conservation, and community engagement along the Hornád River in Slovakia.