

# Wheelyboat gives disabled access to lake angling

By Marion O'Mara  
Marion.omara@waterford-news.com

DISABLED anglers will now be able to pursue their sporting interest along with their able bodied colleagues at Carriganvantry reservoir, in Tramore, following the formal launch of a new wheelchair accessible fishing boat on the reservoir.

Minister of State, at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Sean Connick who is wheelchair bound was on hand last week to formal launch the new wheelyboat.

The project was funded by Waterford Leader Partnership, Southern Regional fisheries Board and Munster T.A.F.I. As well as the new boat, extensive bank works have been under-

taken including a new jetty, moorings and secure compound.

The Coulam 16 Wheelyboat has been designed and developed jointly by The Wheelyboat Trust, a UK charity, and JM Coulam Boatbuilders. It stems from the fundamental desire of disabled anglers, and wheelchair users in particular, to have the same opportunities to fish as the able-bodied.

The deck is open and level throughout. The disabled angler can sit at the bow or the stern and helm the boat as well if desired.

The boat which has step free access via an external ramp from the pontoon and hydraulic platform located in the boat has a powerful 24volt electric outboard which is very easy to operate.



Minister of State Sean Connick, TD, with John O'Dwyer, Ray Dwyer, County Manager, Gary Falconer, C.J. Falconer & Associates who designed the harbour and committee members, at the launch of the wheelchair accessible Coulam 16 Wheelyboat for disabled anglers, at the Waterford City & County Trout Anglers' Association, Carriganvantry Reservoir. Photo: Joe Evans



Minister of State Sean Connick, TD, with County Manager Ray Dwyer and Pat Smith, Irish International Disabled Flyfishing Team 2010-2011, at the launch of the wheelchair accessible Coulam 16 Wheelyboat for disabled anglers, at the Waterford City & County Trout Anglers' Association, Carriganvantry Reservoir. Photo: Joe Evans



Minister of State Sean Connick, TD, John O'Dwyer and Paul Mitchell, at the launch of the wheelchair accessible Coulam 16 Wheelyboat for disabled anglers, at the Waterford City & County Trout Anglers' Association, Carriganvantry Reservoir.