



*Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of
NASCO*

*Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club
Edinburgh, Scotland*

6 – 9 June 2022



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*Cover photo: The Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, Edinburgh
Inside-cover photo: The Dugald Stewart Monument on Calton Hill, Edinburgh. Credit: Visit Scotland / Kenny Lam*

Introduction

We plan to hold NASCO's Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting at the [Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club](#) (the Dalmahoy), a venue just outside the city of Edinburgh, Scotland from 6 – 9 June 2022. Should the meeting go ahead as planned, this will be our first face-to-face meeting in three years, and our first in the Edinburgh area since 2012.

We are very excited to confirm that we plan to offer a 'hybrid' meeting for the first time. The intention is that Heads of Delegations and their representatives, at a minimum, will attend physically at the meeting, but others who wish to participate in the meeting but are unable to travel will be able to join the proceedings via video-link. We will keep you informed of any developments in this respect.

However, as you may be aware, the Heads of Delegations are considering whether to go ahead with the face-to-face element of the meeting, given the ongoing uncertainties related to travel restrictions and the Covid-19 pandemic. A decision on the format of the meeting will be taken by 3 March and we will advise all delegates of the outcome of the decision as soon as possible thereafter.

Please use the registration / booking form accompanying your invitation letter to register for the meeting (either in-person or virtually), and for booking accommodation, the evening events and the post-NASCO tours.

In the meantime, the Provisional Agendas for the Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions and a Draft Schedule of Meetings are available on the NASCO [website](#).

Edinburgh

Edinburgh has been the capital of Scotland since the 15th century. It sits on the south coast of the Firth of Forth (the estuary of the River Forth, which we hope to visit on one of the post-NASCO tours). The city centre is a World Heritage Site and is divided into two very distinct areas: the 'New Town' (which is about 200 years old and home to NASCO's headquarters in Rutland Square) and the medieval 'Old Town'. At the heart of the 'Old Town' stands the city's most prominent and probably most famous landmark: Edinburgh Castle. Parts of the castle date back to the eleventh century and we are very grateful to the Scottish Government who will host a reception for us at the castle (see 'Social Functions' on page 5). Edinburgh is also a major financial centre and home to the Scottish Parliament, which was re-established in May 1999 after an absence of 300 years.

Edinburgh attracts many visitors from all over the world. As well as having numerous first-class attractions, including the International Festival events, it is an ideal base for exploring the rest of Scotland. The population is about half a million people, but it remains a small city where most places can be reached on foot from the city centre.

Accommodation

The Hotel

The meetings will be held at the Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, located about eight miles from Edinburgh city centre. This eighteenth century house was the home of the Douglas family, a family linked to Mary, Queen of Scots. It is said that Mary once stayed at the house and the family later came to her aid when she was imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle.

The Edinburgh area is quite expensive for hotel accommodation, especially in summer, but we have obtained a good rate of £150 per night (£160 double occupancy) for the Dalmahoy including full breakfast and all taxes. This rate will apply to all NASCO bookings made **by 30 March**. We appreciate that there may be cheaper accommodation available at smaller hotels in the city centre. However, as the Dalmahoy is located outside the city centre, public transport to the venue is limited and we would very much encourage you to stay at the Dalmahoy.

After 30 March, **we cannot guarantee that you will be able to book a room** as 50% of our room allocation will be released. Any rooms booked between 31 March and 15 April will be at the **increased rate of £175 per night** (£185 for double occupancy). Our entire room allocation will be released on 15 April. We ask that you use the registration / booking form issued with your invitation letter to advise the Secretariat of your accommodation requirements.

Please note that, unusually for a NASCO meeting, the first night will be **payable by the guest on reservation** as a deposit, and this is **non-refundable**. Once we have received a note of your accommodation requirements, we will provide you with instructions on how to pay the deposit for the hotel accommodation. The remaining balance is payable by the guest on arrival at the hotel. However, given the uncertainty over whether the face-to-face element of the meeting will go ahead, and to avoid you incurring any charges if it is cancelled, we would ask you to hold-off paying the deposit until the decision has been made and communicated to you all by 3 March. We will issue a payment reminder at that time to anyone who has advised the Secretariat that they wish to book accommodation at the hotel.

Travel

COVID-19 Restrictions

We would ask that you familiarise yourself with the current guidelines and follow all Scottish Government recommendations unless you have medical exemption. Please note that the rules for travelling to, and restrictions within, Scotland may differ from the rules in place in other parts of the UK. The latest restrictions regarding travel to Scotland can be found [here](#). Further information relating Coronavirus in Scotland can be found [here](#).

Travelling to Edinburgh

To determine if you require a visa for entry to the United Kingdom, please consult the website: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>.

By Air

Edinburgh is well connected by air, with frequent flights to and from London and other major travel hubs.

The journey from London takes approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. [British Airways](#) and [easyJet](#) currently operate between London and Edinburgh.

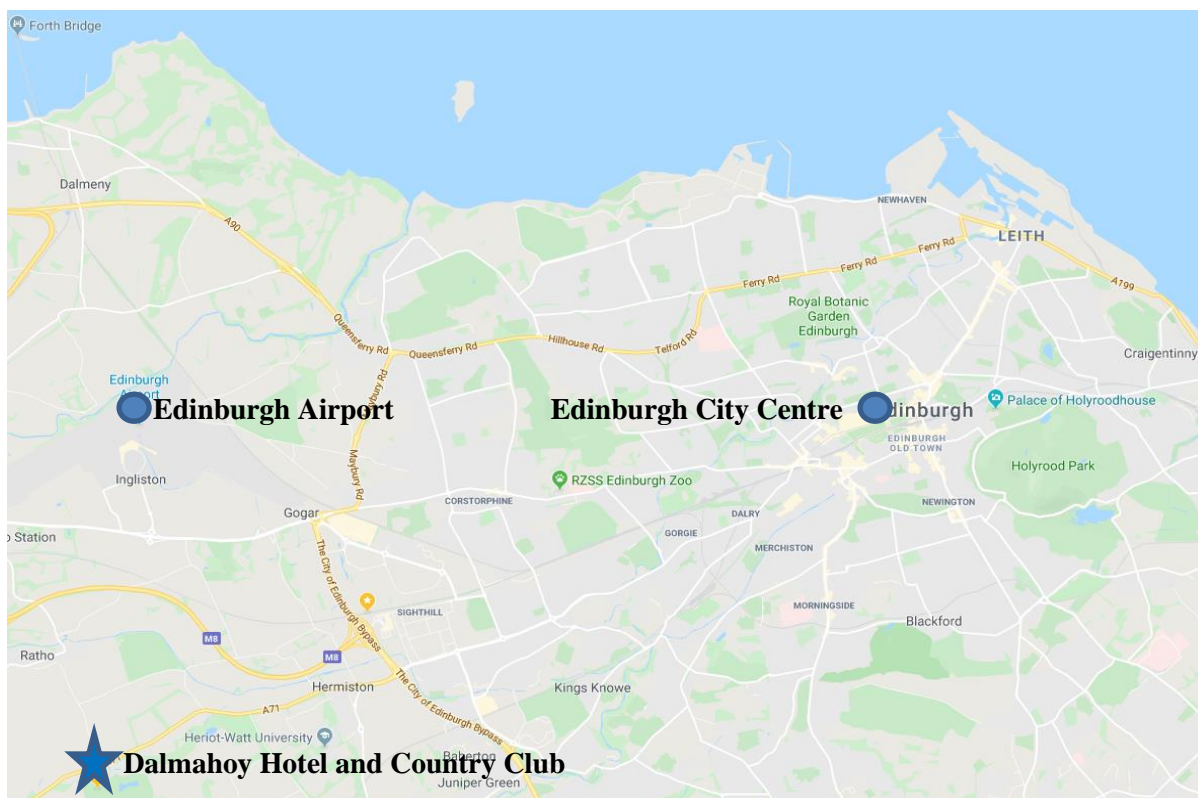
There are also direct flights to Edinburgh from many major European cities (including Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt, Paris and Oslo) and North America (including Boston, New York, Toronto and Washington D.C.).

You can find details of flights, availability, times and costs at <https://www.skyscanner.net>.

By Rail

You can travel to Edinburgh by rail from London Kings Cross or London Euston. The train journey takes about 4½ hours, and ticket prices can start from around £60 if booked well in advance. There is normally at least one train an hour to Edinburgh from London. Tickets can be purchased through <https://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk/service/planjourney/search> or <https://www.thetrainline.com/Train/Tickets>.

Getting to / from the Dalmahoy



Map showing location of the Dalmahoy in relation to the city of Edinburgh and the airport. Map data ©2019 Google

Taxi

A taxi from the airport to the meeting hotel will take approximately 20 minutes and should cost around £15 – £20.

A taxi from the hotel to the city centre should cost approximately £25 – £30.

These are metered fares and will depend on traffic conditions when you travel.

Popular taxi companies in Edinburgh include Central Taxis (+44 131 229 2468) and City Cabs (+44 131 228 1211).

Bus

Lothian Country Buses operate services [X27](#) and [X28](#) which will take you between the Dalmahoy and Princes Street in Edinburgh's city centre. These services stop on the main road outside the hotel grounds. Further details and timetables can be found [here](#).

Tipping

Tipping in Scotland is optional, although some restaurants will include the service charge in the bill. A 10 % gratuity is normal.

All prices in Scotland are normally inclusive of tax.

Social Functions

Monday 6 June

The Scottish Government has offered, very kindly, to host an evening reception on Monday 6 June at Edinburgh Castle. During the evening there will also be an opportunity for those attending to view the Honours of Scotland (Crown Jewels). Transport to and from the castle will be provided. Please use the Annual Meeting registration / booking form to advise us if you wish to attend, and of any dietary requirements you may have.

Tuesday 7 June

There will be a NASCO dinner at the Dalmahoy on Tuesday 7 June. Please use the Annual Meeting registration / booking form to advise us if you wish to attend, and of any dietary requirements you may have.

Post-NASCO Tours

Fisheries Management Scotland, working with the Forth Rivers Trust, Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board and the Spey Fishery Board, have, kindly, arranged two optional salmon study tours (and perhaps even a whisky distillery tour!) for NASCO delegates following the Annual Meeting. We do not have full details of these tours yet, but a general overview of each is given below. Further information, including costs and anticipated timings, will be provided at a later date. Please use your registration / booking form to book your place on these tours.

Thursday 9 June

A half-day tour is planned for the afternoon of Thursday 9 June, which will depart following the close of the Annual Meeting. Delegates will have the opportunity to see habitat improvement works, including the UK's largest rock ramp fish pass, in the Forth River catchment, a heavily populated area with major links to industry over the years.

Friday 10 June

A full-day tour is being arranged for Friday, 10 June. This will be an opportunity to view some of the issues and solutions relating to hydro electricity generation in Scotland. We hope to visit areas in both the Tay and Spey catchments, to see rewatering and riparian planting work. We may be able to squeeze in a tour of a whisky distillery on our way back to the Dalmahoy.

Additional Information

There is no shortage of excursions within and beyond Edinburgh. Information on these, and general tourist information, can be found at <https://www.visitscotland.com>, www.edinburgh.org and www.list.co.uk.

The weather in June is as unpredictable as it is for the rest of the year, but temperatures might average about 17°C. It is very likely to rain!

In Conclusion

I am confident that, whichever way we meet in 2022, we will have a productive meeting. Should the face-to-face element of the meeting go ahead, it will be the first time we meet in person in three years. We in the Secretariat very much hope to see you all here, in our hometown, and are ready to assist you in any way we can.

Dr Emma Hatfield
Secretary
Edinburgh



Edinburgh Castle viewed from the Vennel by the Grassmarket. Credit: Visit Scotland / Kenny Lam