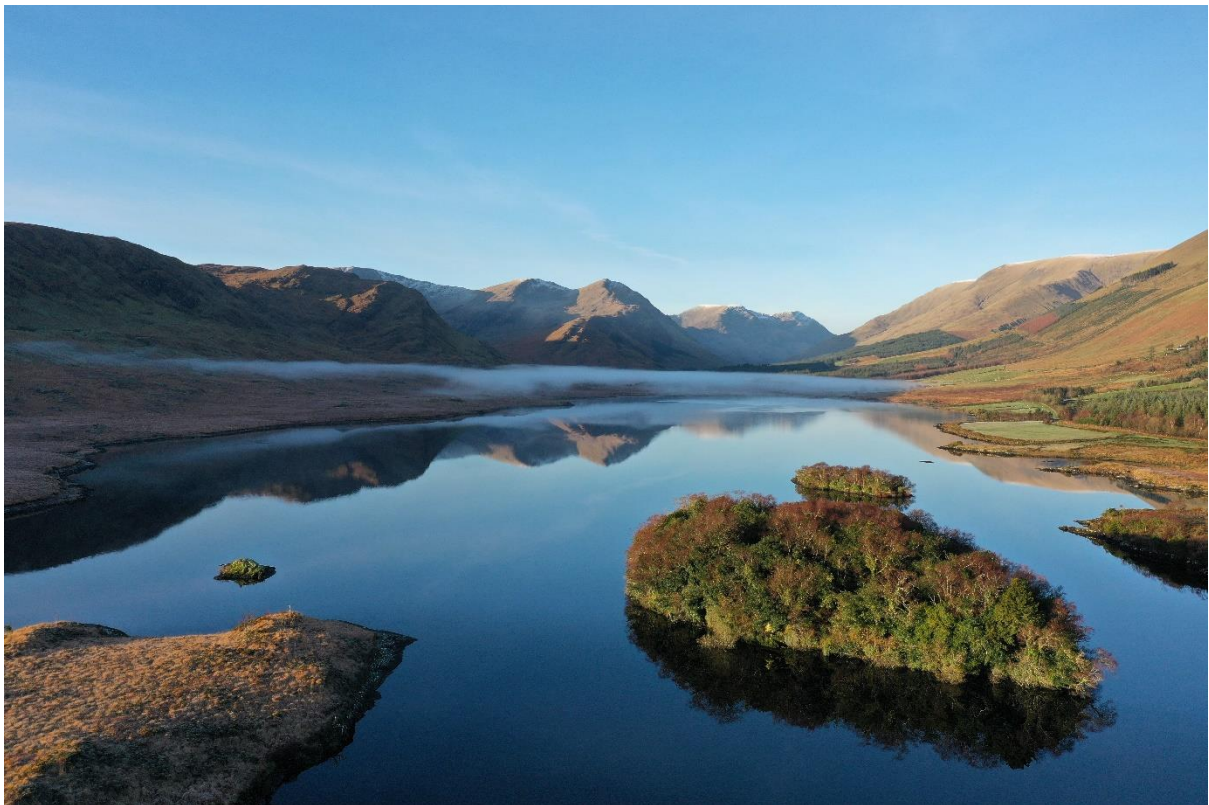




*Forty-First Annual Meeting of
NASCO*

*Knockranny House Hotel
Westport, Co. Mayo, Ireland*

3 – 7 June 2024



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Cover photo: Tawnyard Lough. Photo credit to Sean Kelly

Contents page photo: Exterior of the Knockranny House Hotel. Photo credit to Knockranny House Hotel

Introduction

The Forty-First Annual Meeting of NASCO will take place from 3 – 7 June at the Knockranny House Hotel, located around a ten minute walk from the centre of the town of Westport. Hybrid participation will also be available to delegates who wish to participate but are unable to attend the meeting in person.

Please use the registration form accompanying your invitation letter to register for the meeting (including for virtual participation), to note any accommodation requirements and for booking the evening events and post-NASCO tour.

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

The Town of Westport

The historic town of Westport is situated on Ireland's west coast, in County Mayo. There are many prestigious wild Atlantic salmon fisheries located in the region surrounding Westport. These include the Moy, Corrib, Ballisodare, Erriff, Owenmore, Owenduff and Carrowmore fisheries. There are also numerous salmon rivers in the locality.

Thought to have been settled under the name 'Cathair na Mart' as the property of the Ó Máille clan, the town was established as Westport in the mid to late 18th century. Today, Westport is a popular tourist destination, owing to its picturesque architecture, status as a heritage town, surrounding landscape, location as a starting point of The Great Western Greenway cycle path and close proximity to Croagh Patrick, which is widely heralded as 'Ireland's holiest mountain'. Another attraction in the area is the 18th century Westport House, which is open to visitors.

Accommodation

The Hotel

The meeting will be held at the Knockranny House Hotel, which overlooks Westport and boasts views of nearby Clew Bay, Clare Island, Croagh Patrick and the Nephin Mountains. The hotel is located a ten minute walk from Westport town centre and features a restaurant, bar, garden terrace, fitness suite, indoor swimming pool and spa.

Guest rooms will be offered at a special rate of €185, inclusive of tax. Double occupancy guest rooms will be offered at a special rate of €275. These reduced rates are effective on 30 May and between 2 & 6 June only; rates on all other dates will be higher than the NASCO rate. Complimentary breakfast is included in the room rate and is served at the hotel restaurant: La Fougère.

Please note that the deadline for booking a room at the NASCO special rate is 31 March 2024. Under the Knockranny House Hotel's cancellation policy delegates are entitled to a refund of 50% of the total cost of a reservation if it is cancelled 45 days or more before the arrival date. There will be no reimbursement for later accommodation cancellations.

Travel

Travelling to Westport

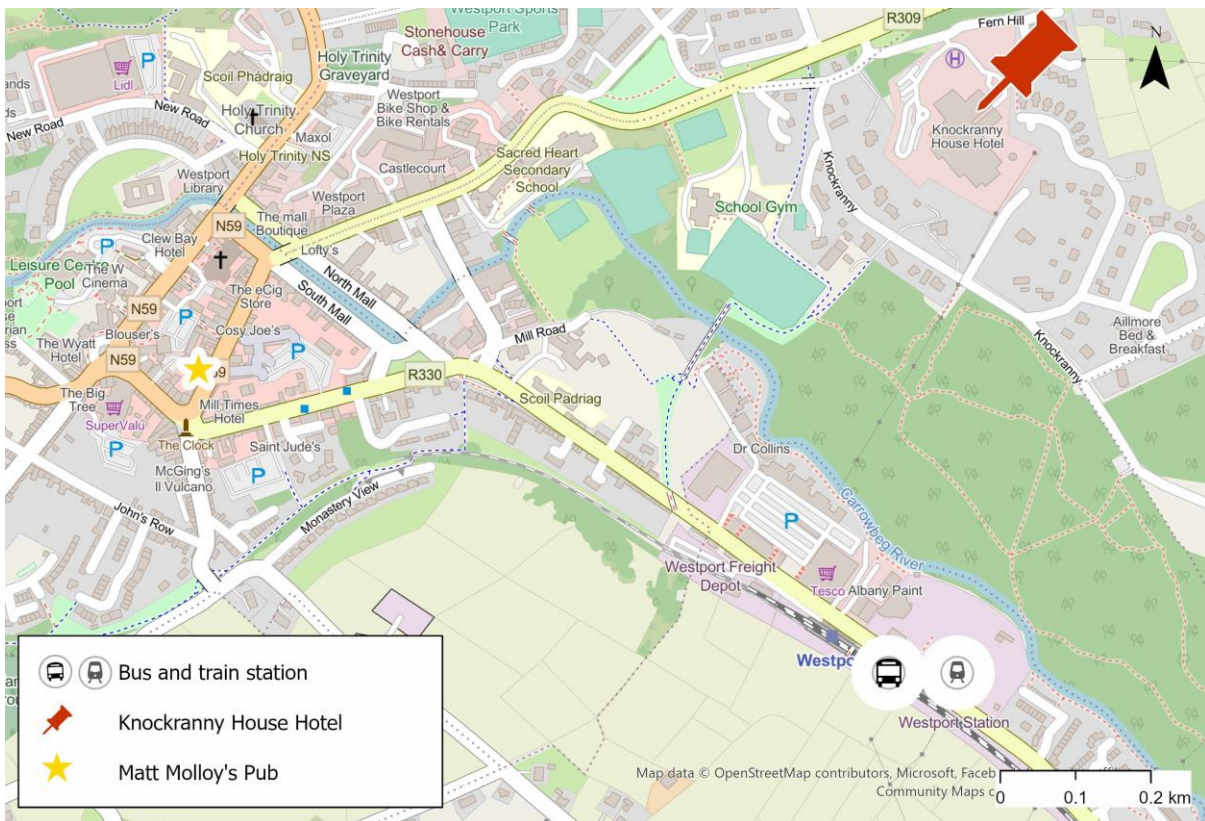
The Knockranny House Hotel is situated just off the N5, which is the main Dublin – Castlebar Road.

Westport can also be reached from a number of locations throughout Ireland by public transport. Dublin Hueston Station is located in Dublin city centre (around a 30 minute drive from Dublin Airport) and has regular trains to Westport Station, which is around a 20 minute walk from the Knockranny House Hotel. Irish Rail timetables can be found and tickets can be

purchased in advance [here](#). As June is the peak season for rail travel it is advisable to purchase all train tickets in advance.



Map showing location of Westport in Ireland. Map data ©2024 Google



Map of the town of Westport. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri

Travelling from Dublin Airport

Dublin is well connected through air travel to most European cities and many international locations. Airlines servicing Dublin Airport and more information can be found [here](#).

There are no direct train services between Dublin Airport and Westport, however the 782 Dublin Express bus from Dublin Airport Terminal 1 to Dublin Hueston Rail Station runs every 10 – 15 minutes and costs approximately €8. From Hueston Rail Station it is possible to travel by [train](#) to Westport in just over three hours, for approximately €20.

Travelling from Ireland West Airport Knock

Located halfway between Galway and Sligo, Ireland West Airport Knock is the closest airport to Westport and offers direct flights from a number of European cities. More information about Ireland West Airport Knock can be found on the airport's [website](#).

The National Bus carrier, Bus Eireann, offers a service 440 from Ireland West Airport Knock to within a 15-minute walk of the Knockranny House Hotel and departs the airport multiple times daily.

Alternatively, a taxi from the airport to Westport takes around 45 minutes and costs approximately €90 – €110.

Taxi and Uber

Local taxis are not always available in large numbers, especially for late night flight arrivals, and you are encouraged to contact a local taxi company in advance of your arrival. Uber is available in Westport but taxis are recommended.

Tipping

In general, tipping is not expected in Ireland. However, it is normal to leave a 10% gratuity in restaurants if you are happy with the service, although some include the service charge in the bill.

Social Functions

Two evening social functions are being planned; a reception accompanied by live entertainment which will be followed by a dinner on Wednesday 5 June and a reception with live music at a local pub owned by Matt Molloy of the Irish band The Chieftains on Thursday 6 June. Further details will be provided prior to the event.

Post-NASCO Salmon Tour

A half-day tour is being planned for the afternoon and evening of Friday 7 June. Participants will depart the hotel on a coach with a knowledgeable local guide, who will detail the history of the area during the journey. The tour will pass through the Doolough Valley to the Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) research centre at Aasleagh Falls, where there will be an opportunity to see firsthand the important work being done by IFI to monitor and protect wild Atlantic salmon in the area. There will be a chance to look inside the historic Aasleagh Lodge before continuing to the nearby Leenane Hotel for soup and a sandwich, after which the tour will conclude with a boat trip through Killary Harbour before returning to the hotel. The drive to and from the locations of the tour will take about 60 minutes.

The tour will cost €20 per head; please note that places are limited. Delegates should pay on arrival in order to secure a place. Further details on this tour and any other events will be made available in advance.

In Conclusion

There will be a busy schedule for the Forty-First Annual Meeting in Westport. The Council will hold two Special Sessions and one Theme-based Special Session. In the first of the Special Sessions, on Monday 3 June, the chair of the Working Group on the Future of NASCO (WGFON) will deliver a presentation on the WGFON's Draft Strategy, Draft Action Plan and Terms of Reference for the Future Reporting Working Group for the fourth reporting cycle. The second Special Session will focus on the evaluation of the Implementation Plans under the third reporting cycle following the latest round of review and the evaluation of the 2024 Annual Progress Reports under these IPs. The Theme-based Special Session on Wednesday 5 June will be an opportunity to learn about the management of pink salmon in the North Atlantic and their potential threats to wild Atlantic salmon.

The work of the WGFON will inform the work and direction of NASCO over the next ten years. Council will be asked to agree a Strategy and Action Plan directed at the urgent need to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage wild Atlantic salmon, in the context of the climate change emergency, together with the annual process to monitor the delivery of the Action Plan. It will also consider the fourth reporting cycle and agree Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Future Reporting.

In addition, Council will consider the work of two Working Groups established in 2023, to agree to the new Stocking Guidelines and the permanent Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Pink Salmon. It will also consider the proposed Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas.

In the Commissions, there will be important negotiations in the North-East Atlantic Commission on its new regulatory measure. In each of the Commissions, there will again be an opportunity for updates to be presented on any mixed-stock fisheries, including the most recent catch data and any developments in relation to the management of these fisheries to implement NASCO agreements. The West Greenland Commission will, again, have the opportunity to consider the implementation of the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland agreed in 2022. The Agendas of the North American and North-East Atlantic Commissions allow for consideration of measures to minimise risks from introductions and transfers.

The Board will also have a very busy meeting this year, with the Board considering its future research priorities and other decisions related to its review of its vision, scope and purpose

This year's Annual Meeting will also provide an opportunity to learn about some of the conservation efforts being undertaken in Ireland to protect Atlantic salmon. The tour on the afternoon of Friday 7 June arranged by our hosts will give those who attend insight into the important work of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) at their research centre at Aasleagh Falls.

In whichever way you participate this year, we look forward to meeting you all and having a productive and enjoyable meeting. We in the Secretariat very much hope to see you all there and are ready to provide support in any way we can.

Dr Emma Hatfield
Secretary
Edinburgh



River Erriff. Photo credit to Michael Millane