



*Forty-Second Annual Meeting of
NASCO*

*Mercure Cardiff Holland House
Hotel & Spa, Cardiff, Wales*

3 – 6 June 2025



CONTENTS

Introduction	3
The City of Cardiff	3
Accommodation	3
Travel	4
Tipping	5
Social Functions	5
Post-NASCO Salmon Tours	5
In Conclusion	5



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Introduction

The Forty-Second Annual Meeting of NASCO will take place from 3 – 6 June at the Mercurie Cardiff Holland House Hotel & Spa, located close to Cardiff city centre. 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 or dietary requirements and for booking the evening events and post-NASCO tours.

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 City of Cardiff

Cardiff (Welsh: Caerdydd) is the capital city of Wales and its largest city. It is a vibrant cultural, economic and political hub, as well as a popular tourist destination.

Cardiff's history dates back to Roman times, when a fort was established at the site of what is now Cardiff Castle. The Normans built Cardiff Castle in the 11th century, which became central to the city's development. Cardiff then grew significantly during the 19th century, as South Wales became the industrial powerhouse of Industrial Revolution, seeing coal from Cardiff docks sent to the rest of the world.

The opening of the Cardiff Barrage in 2000 marked the revival of a declining area into an attractive waterfront that has helped Cardiff to become a major tourist destination, though it presented a significant additional pressure to the recovering salmon stocks in the River Taff.

Cardiff is situated in the South of Wales and borders the globally important Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site. Local attractions include Cardiff Castle, the St Fagans National Museum of History, The Millenium Centre, The National Museum and the Rhondda Heritage Park, to name just a few. It is also only a short drive from the stunning Brecon Beacons National Park.

Atlantic salmon can be found in most Welsh rivers, including those near to Cardiff. Internationally renowned salmon fisheries on the Towy, Teifi, Wye and the Usk are within one to two-hour's drive. It is also worth noting some of the smaller rivers such as the Ogmore, Cleddau, Ogwen, Irfon and Tawe which are highly prized and support locally important salmon fisheries.

Accommodation

The Hotel

The meeting hotel is within close walking distance of numerous amenities and public transport links and features a restaurant, bar, fitness suite and indoor swimming pool.

The NASCO room rate (inclusive of tax and breakfast) at the meeting hotel varies throughout the duration of the Annual Meeting as follows:

Dates	Rate
29 – 30 May	£125 per night
31 May – 7 June	£164 per night
8 June	£125 per night

Double occupancy will be at an additional cost of £10 per room per night.

Please note that the deadline for booking a room at the NASCO rate is **15 April 2024**. If you wish to book a room at the meeting hotel, please return your registration form with a note of your accommodation requirements to the Secretariat before this date. We will then advise you how to make a booking directly with the hotel.

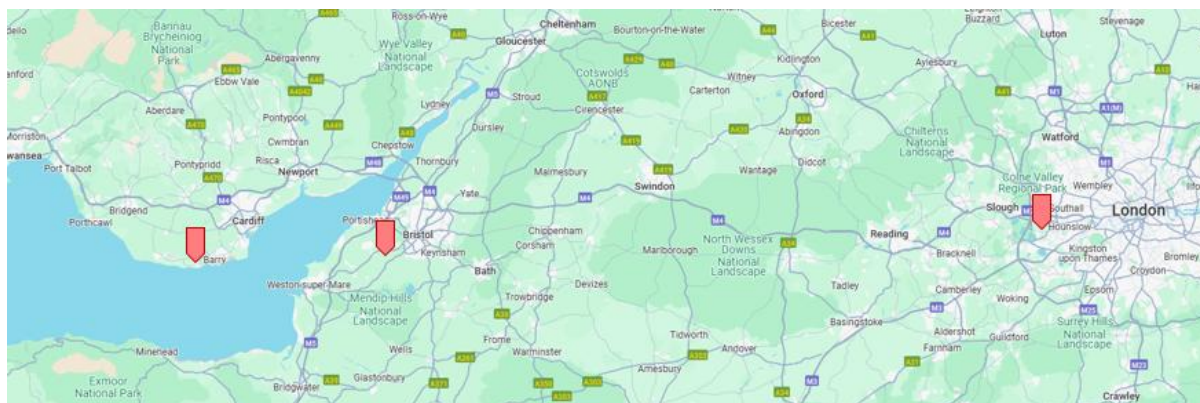
Under the cancellation policy, **rooms can be cancelled at no charge until 7 days before the booking. After that point the full cost of the booking will be charged.**

Travel

Travelling to Cardiff

By Air

Cardiff Airport has a number of direct UK and international flights, to both European (including Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt and Oslo) and North American (including Boston, Toronto and Washington DC) cities. However, not all flights operate on all days so if you are flying you may need to travel to another airport, depending on your travel dates. Cardiff can also be reached easily by public transport from both Bristol and the London airports.



Map showing locations of Cardiff Airport (left), Bristol Airport (centre) and London Heathrow Airport (right). Map data ©2024 Google

Travelling from Cardiff Airport

Travel between Cardiff Airport and the city centre is made possible by dedicated bus, rail and taxi connections. Details of these routes are available [here](#).

Travelling from Bristol Airport

The nearest alternative to Cardiff Airport, Bristol Airport, connects South-West England to a number of international airports. More information about can be found on the airport's [website](#).

From Bristol Airport, Cardiff can be reached via [rail services](#) operating from Bristol Temple Meads Station in Bristol city centre or by bus services running directly from Bristol Airport.

Information on how to get to Bristol Temple Meads Station from Bristol Airport can be found [here](#).

The National Express bus service 216 operates from Bristol Airport to Cardiff Coach Station on the outskirts of the city. More information is available [here](#).

Travelling from the London Airports

London Heathrow Airport can be reached from over two hundred [international locations](#) and, of the London airports, is the most easily connected to Cardiff using public transport. Train journeys from any of the other London airports to Cardiff typically last two to three hours. Further information on travelling from the London airports to Cardiff can be found on the [national rail](#) website.

By Rail

The meeting hotel is located a ten-minute walk from Cardiff Queen Street Rail Station and a ten-minute drive from Cardiff Central Rail Station. For information about train timetables and to book tickets for your journey to Cardiff we recommend using the [national rail](#) website.

Taxi and Uber

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

Tipping

In general, tipping is not expected in Wales. However, it is normal to leave a 10% gratuity in restaurants if you are happy with the service. Please note that some restaurants include the service charge in the bill, especially for larger groups.

Social Functions

Two evening social functions are being planned; a reception, likely to held on Monday 2 June and a dinner held at the hotel on Wednesday, 4 June. Further details will be provided prior to the event.

Post-NASCO Salmon Tours

A half-day tour to Cardiff Bay and the River Taff is being planned for Friday 6 June.

A further tour is being planned for Saturday 7 June to Brecon and the River Usk.

Further details on these tours and any other events will be made available in advance.

In Conclusion

There will be a busy schedule for the Forty-Second Annual Meeting in Cardiff with important business for the future of NASCO. The Council will hold three Special Sessions on Wednesday 4 June, the first two to inform the fourth reporting cycle and the third to discuss it.

The first of the Special Sessions will be an opportunity for Parties / jurisdictions to share the outcomes of their stressor analyses as short presentations. In the second Special Session, Parties / jurisdictions will share actions from the third reporting cycle that were successful for wild Atlantic salmon management. In the final Special Session, the Chair of the Working Group on Future Reporting will share the Report of the Working Group on Future Reporting including its recommendations to Council for the fourth reporting cycle.

In line with NASCO's Strategy and Action Plan, in 2025, Council will be asked to agree the format and approach of the fourth reporting cycle. Other outstanding business for agreement from the Action Plan includes decisions on actions deliberated by the Working Group on the Future of NASCO inter-sessionally, including decisions on actions outstanding after the 2024 Annual Meeting, on a position paper on Convention change and on the update and consolidation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Additionally, Council will consider a communications and outreach strategy for NASCO and the NASCO Secretariat environmental policy. Council will also consider the work of the Stocking Guidelines Working Group, to agree to the new Guidelines for Stock Rebuilding Programmes and Guidelines on Gene Banking. It will be asked to adopt new Staff Rules deliberated through the Finance and Administration Committee. It will be updated on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas. The final report on the review of the effect of salmon aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon populations, carried out through the NASCO-funded State of Knowledge and EU-funded IMPAS projects, will also be available.

In each of the Commissions, there will again be an opportunity for updates to be presented on any coastal, estuarine and in-river mixed-stock fisheries, including the most recent catch data and any developments in relation to the management of these fisheries to implement NASCO agreements. This year, however, the justification for the continued prosecution of these mixed-stock fisheries will need to be provided. The Agendas of the North American and North-East Atlantic Commissions allow for consideration of measures to minimise risks from introductions and transfers. 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 Board will have two meetings this year, with the Board considering the outcome from its inter-sessional meeting to discuss a marine growth study proposal from its Scientific Advisory Group in line with its research priorities vision, scope and purpose.

Located in the centre of Cardiff, and including two tours organised by our hosts, this year's Annual Meeting will provide a valuable opportunity for those attending in person to learn about the efforts being undertaken in Wales to conserve Atlantic salmon.

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



Aerial View of Cardiff Bay Barrage. Photo credit to Cardiff Bay Harbour Authority