



*Forty-Third Annual Meeting of
NASCO*

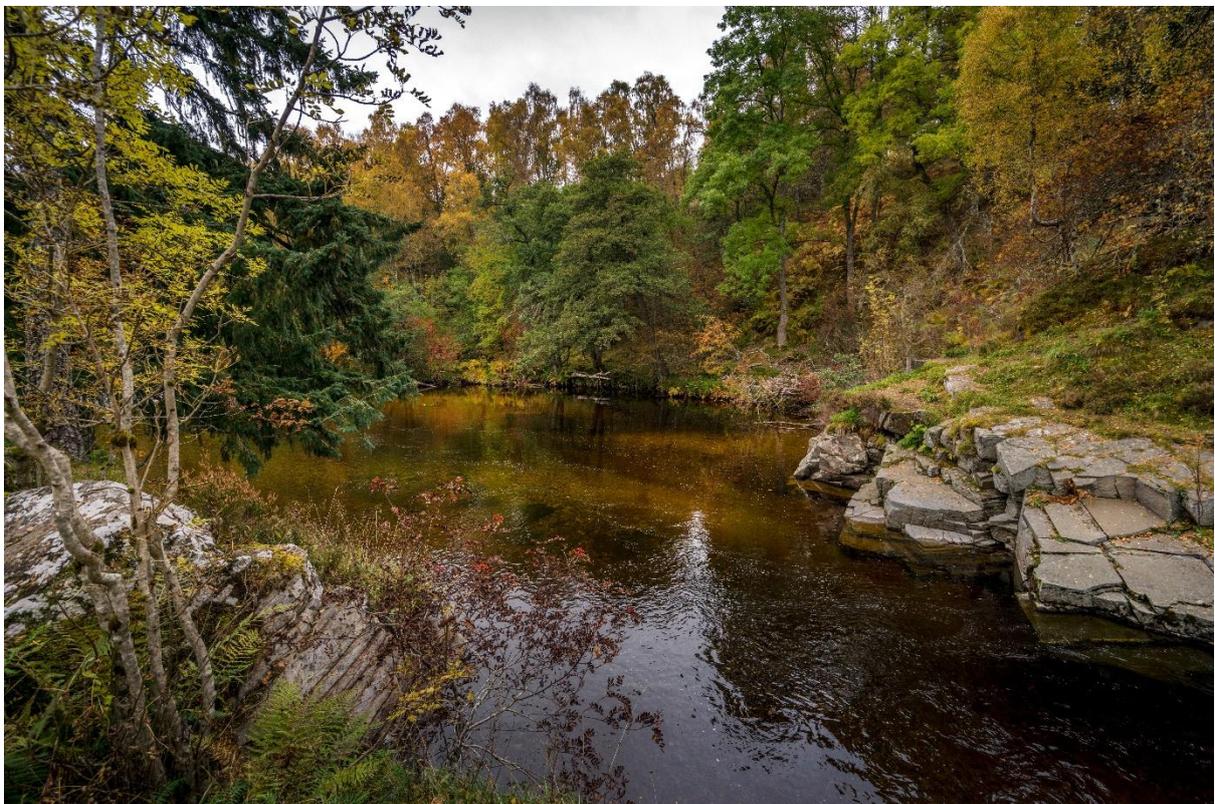
*Macdonald Aviemore Resort, Aviemore,
Scotland*

2 - 5 June 2026



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Cover photo: Aviemore (credit: Visit Scotland / Liam Anderstrem)

Contents page photo: River Spey at Loch Insh Cairngorms National Park (credit: Visit Scotland / Jakub Iwanicki)

Introduction

The Forty-Third Annual Meeting of NASCO will take place from 2 – 5 June at the Macdonald Aviemore Resort in Aviemore, Scotland, with hybrid participation available to those who cannot attend in-person. This will be my first Annual Meeting as Secretary and I very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible here in Scotland in June.

As you may recall, during the 2025 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the 2026 Meeting would be very much scaled back and those of you familiar with the ‘normal’ NASCO Annual Meeting format will notice a difference in the in-person experience. As a reminder, lunches will not be provided to delegates, there are no planned social functions and no post-NASCO tours. We only have two delegation rooms this year, which can be booked through the Secretariat. In the main meeting room, we have one large screen and a reduced number of comfort monitors, so we encourage you to register for the online platform in advance of the meeting, as reading text may be easier on your laptop screen than the large screen in the room. Special Sessions will also be held in the main meeting room.

Please use the registration form accompanying your invitation letter to register for the meeting (including for virtual participation) and to note any accommodation or dietary requirements.

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

In the lead up to, and during the Annual Meeting, you can follow along with updates from the NASCO Secretariat on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#). We encourage you to engage with us there; your comments, photos and feedback are always welcome!

The Town of Aviemore

Nestled in the Cairngorms National Park, in the Highlands of Scotland, Aviemore is a popular active outdoors holiday destination surrounded by beautiful scenery.

The town itself has a great selection of shops, restaurants and bars and the River Spey, one of the ‘big four’ salmon rivers in Scotland, runs through the town.

Further information on Aviemore and the surrounding area can be found [here](#).

Accommodation

The Hotel

The [Macdonald Aviemore Resort](#) boasts several restaurants and bars, a café, a fitness suite and an indoor swimming pool. Located in the town centre, directly opposite Aviemore Railway Station, the resort is well situated for access to Aviemore’s many conveniences.

As the resort’s hotels and conference centre are spread across different buildings, it is recommended that you bring a raincoat or umbrella to protect yourself from the elements on the short walk between locations.

Accommodation

The NASCO room rate (inclusive of tax and breakfast) at the meeting hotel is £164 per night (single occupancy). Double occupancy is available for £174 per room per night.

Please note that the deadline for booking a room at the NASCO rate is **23 March 2026**. 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, the guest will pay the first night as a deposit at the time of reservation, which is **non-refundable**. The remaining balance is payable by the guest on arrival at the hotel.

Lunches

Please note that **NASCO will no longer provide lunches** for delegates. However, we have agreed with the hotel that a soup and sandwich lunch will be available to delegates at a cost of £12.95 in the food court adjoining the conference centre. Delegates must pay for their own lunch on the day if they wish to take advantage of this.



Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Travel

Entry Requirements for Visiting the UK

Please note that there have been changes to the entry requirements for visitors to the UK and you will now need an Electronic Travel Authorisation if you are not a British or Irish citizen or do not already hold a UK visa. Some other exemptions do apply, but please check the UK Government website for full details: [Get an electronic travel authorisation \(ETA\) to visit the UK: Overview - GOV.UK](#).

Please note that under the NASCO Headquarters Agreement, Contracting Party delegation members who are government officials are eligible to travel to NASCO meetings in the UK on an [Exempt Vignette](#) in place of an ETA (or visa if an ETA is not available to you). Please contact the Secretariat for further information if required.

Travelling to Aviemore

The meeting hotel is situated opposite Aviemore Railway Station, which has regular services to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and other locations across the UK. To plan your journey by rail to Aviemore, visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

Aviemore can also be reached by public transport from Inverness, Edinburgh and Glasgow airports.

Travelling through Inverness Airport

Inverness airport has direct connections to locations across the UK (including several of the London airports) and Amsterdam (Schiphol).

Aviemore can be reached by bus (around 2 hours) or train (around 1.5 hours) from Inverness Airport (connecting through Inverness city centre). You may find www.travelinescotland.com and www.nationalrail.co.uk helpful in planning your journey from Inverness airport.

Please note that Inverness Airport Railway Station is approximately 15 – 20 minutes walking distance from the terminal building. If you do not wish to walk, taxis are available from outside the terminal building and the Stagecoach Number 11 service provides a bus link between the terminal building and the station. The timetable for this service can be found [here](#), and at the time of writing, the cost is £2.70.

Travelling through Edinburgh Airport

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

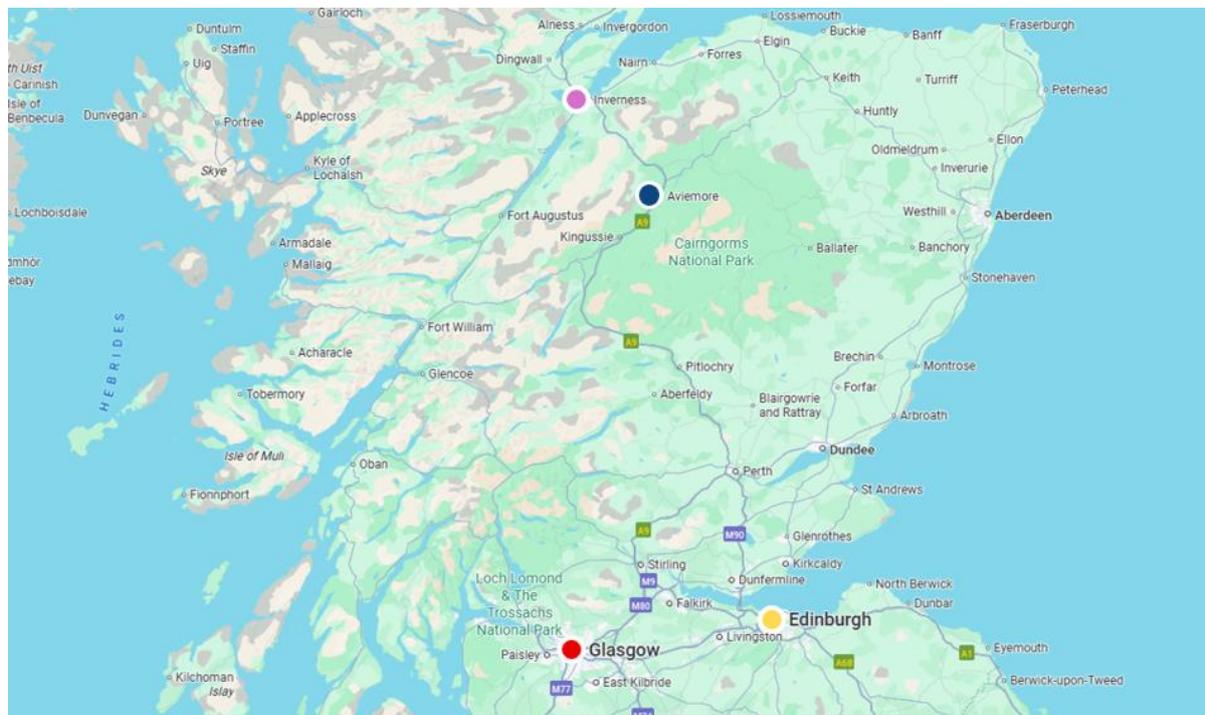
There are also direct flights to Edinburgh from many major European cities (including Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt, Paris, Reykjavik and Oslo) and North America (including Boston, New York, Toronto and Washington D.C.).

It is approximately a three-hour journey from Edinburgh Airport to Aviemore. Please see www.travelinescotland.com to help plan your journey.

Travelling through Glasgow Airport

Glasgow is Scotland's most populous city and is home to a busy international airport which serves many locations across Europe and North America (including Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris, Frankfurt, Reykjavik and Toronto).

It is approximately a 3.5 hour journey from Glasgow International Airport to Aviemore. Please see www.travelinescotland.com to help plan your journey.



Map showing locations of Inverness (pink), Edinburgh (yellow), and Glasgow (red) in relation to the town of Aviemore (dark blue). Map data ©2025 Google

Tipping

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

All prices in Scotland are normally inclusive of tax.

Additional Information

Although there will not be a post-NASCO tour following the Forty-Third Annual Meeting, Aviemore is well located with no shortage of nearby excursions if you wish to extend your stay.

For more information about various activities and attractions you may wish to consider, visit <https://www.visitaviemore.com/>.

Scottish weather is famously unpredictable; temperatures may average about 17°C. It is recommended to bring clothing you can layer, and definitely bring some rain protection!

In Conclusion

The Forty-Third Annual Meeting of NASCO in Aviemore will feature an especially busy schedule, with important business for the future of NASCO.

The Council will hold one Special Session, ‘Evaluation of Conservation Commitment Reports Under the Fourth Reporting Cycle (2026-2032),’ as part of NASCO’s new, and fourth, reporting cycle. This will be an opportunity for the Chair of the Conservation Commitment Reports (CCR) Review Group to present the outcome of the first review of the Draft CCRs and facilitate comments and questions from all delegates on the draft CCRs.

Council will review potential changes to budgets based on a review of priorities following the inter-sessional meetings of the Council and the FAC, and the FAC Annual Meeting.

In line with NASCO’s Strategy and Action Plan, in 2026 Council will consider two reports of its Working Group on Pink Salmon (PSWG), from the Group’s meetings in July 2025 and March 2026 to share pink salmon knowledge among the Parties / jurisdictions. Council will also consider the work of the Habitat Guidelines Working Group, to agree to the new NASCO Guidelines for the Protection, Restoration and Improvement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat. Additionally, Council will consider a paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Definitions of ‘Salmon’ in NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Council will be updated on the implementation of NASCO’s Communications and Outreach Strategy, which it agreed in 2025. An update on the publication, in scientific journals, of the reviews of the effects of salmon aquaculture on sea lice and genetic introgression in wild Atlantic salmon populations, carried out through the NASCO-funded State of Knowledge and EU-funded IMPAS projects, will also be available.

In the Commissions, there will be important negotiations in the West Greenland Commission on a new regulatory measure, following an inter-sessional meeting of the Commission in Greenland in March. 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. The justification for the continued prosecution of these mixed-stock fisheries has been requested once again this year and 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. In the North-East Atlantic Commission, this will include the Report of the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris*, following the Group’s meeting in March 2026.

The Board will hold two meetings this year, during which it will consider the progress report from the Steering Committee for the Basin-Wide Marine Growth Study proposal.

Whether you participate virtually or join us in person this year, we look forward to greeting you all and to 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 Cathal Gallagher
Secretary
Edinburgh



Lochan Eilein at Rothiemurchus (credit: Visit Scotland / Richard Elliot)