



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



First Range State Workshop on the European Eel

Galway, Ireland, 13-14 October 2016

FACT SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. Getting to Galway

Galway is located approximately two hours journey time west of Dublin and two hours north of Shannon and can be reached from these two airports.

Coaches from these airports to Galway are available. For example from Dublin, there is an air coach every 30 mins to Galway (2 hours, free wifi and costs €30 return).
<https://www.dublinairport.com/to-from-the-airport/by-bus>

II. Meeting Venue

The meeting will take place at the Galway Bay Hotel in the Ballyvaughan Suite.

Address:

The Promenade,

Galway,

Tel: + 353 (091) 520 520,

Email: info@galwaybayhotel.com

Web Page: <https://www.galwaybayhotel.net/>

Conference & Banqueting Co-ordinator: Niamh Stack

Direct +353 (0) 91 518 364

Email: nstack@galwaybayhotel.com

Web: www.galwaybayhotel.com

III. Registration

Registration will start at 0830hrs on Thursday 13 October 2016.

IV. Hotel accommodation

Rooms: The SSC has reserved a block of rooms available for participants to book directly through the hotel at the Agreed rate: €89 per single room per night to include Bed & Breakfast; €119 per single room per night to include Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

No later than Monday 5 September 2016, Participants should either be registered with the CMS Secretariat and/or ensure that they book their rooms directly with the reservations department in the Galway Bay Hotel - reservations@galwaybayhotel.com or +353 91 520520

The hotel requires all rooms to be named by Monday 5th September 2016. We cannot guarantee a room for you if you have not registered for the eel workshop by this Monday, September 5. Once rooms are named: The hotel's individual cancellation policy is 48 hours prior to arrival; late cancellations or failure to arrive as booked would result in a late cancellation fee equal to the first night's rate per room reserved, as all rooms are secured by rooming list.

Please note that the workshop will be self-funded and you should make your own travel arrangements unless you have communicated directly with Faith Bulger at SSC about funding assistance (fbulger@sargassoseacommission.org) and are working through the SSC's travel agent.

V. Weather

The month of October is characterized by falling daily high temperatures, with daily highs decreasing from 15°C to 12°C over the course of the month, Do not forget to bring your umbrella and a jacket since it can be cool and wet.

VI. Currency

Irish currency is the Euro (€). As of 1 July 2016, the exchange rate was €0.90 for 1 USD. Credit cards are accepted in hotels and in most restaurants and shops in Galway.

VII. Visas

Upon request, an official letter of invitation will be sent to participants. This can be attached to the Irish visa application. Visas can be obtained from your nearest Irish embassy or consulate. Please check the website of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service at [AVATS](#) to see if you require a visa to Ireland. If you have any difficulties obtaining a visa, please contact the Secretariat: cms.secretariat@cms.int.

VIII. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be conducted in English.

IX. Identification badges

All participants will receive an identification badge to access the venue. You are requested to wear this badge during your stay.

X. Time zone

Ireland uses Irish Standard Time in the summer months and Greenwich Mean Time (UTC+0) in the winter period.

XI. Information about Galway and Ireland

At The Galway Bay Hotel, you'll find Galway's "Outdoor Gym" the famous Salthill Promenade. Join the hundreds of people who walk and jog this path everyday. For a fresh and invigorating sea swim or a plunge off the Blackrock diving boards, just cross the road. Galway Bay Hotel is the perfect base for exploring some of the most stunning stretches of the Wild Atlantic Way. Travel south to the Burren Hills, the flaggy shore and the magnificent cliffs that wind their way from Black Head to Liscannor. Travel north through the wilds of Connemara past unspoilt beaches and rolling bogs to the picturesque towns of Roundstone and Clifden.

The Cliffs of Moher are Ireland's most visited natural attraction with a magical vista that captures the hearts of up to one million visitors every year. Standing 214m (702 feet) at their highest point they stretch for 8 kilometres (5 miles) along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland. From the Cliffs of Moher on a clear day one can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay, as well as the Twelve Pins and the Maum Turk mountains in Connemara, Loop Head to the south and the Dingle Peninsula and Blasket Islands in Kerry. O'Brien's Tower stands near the highest point and has served as a viewing point for visitors for hundreds of years. [Cliffs of Moher](#)

Local points of interest in Galway including:

St. Nicholas' Church



St. Nicholas is the largest medieval parish church in Ireland in continuous use as a place of worship at the heart of Galway's life. The early sections of the church date from 1320, although tradition tells us that St. Nicholas was built upon the ruins of an older structure, and part of the chancel's south wall may incorporate some of this earlier material. It's said that Christopher Columbus prayed here in 1477 before sailing away on one of his attempts to reach the New World. A tour through the Church will allow you to glimpse the part of its rich history. The church is open all day, every day, and visitors are most welcome.

Lynch's Castle



Formerly owned by one of the fourteen tribes which ruled the city centuries ago, this elegant now houses Allied Irish Bank. Despite this the interior is still extremely impressive with coats of arms, stone fireplaces and a separate exhibition room which opens from Monday to Wednesday and on Fridays. The Lynches were a wealthy family, many of whom served as Galway mayor. One of the mayors, James Lynch Fitzstephen, actually pronounced his own son guilty of the murder of a Spanish sailor who became involved with a female family member in 1493. Lynch hanged his son Walter himself when everyone else refused to participate. The term 'Lynch Law' arose from this unfortunate episode. The old prison on Market Street in Galway City displays a black marble plaque marking the actual spot of the execution.

Galway Cathedral



Located on Nun's Island, on the west bank of the River Corrib near Salmon Weir Bridge, Galway Cathedral is one of the largest and most dominating buildings in Galway. Construction of the Cathedral began in 1958 and was completed in 1965. It is located on the site of the former city jail and features a dome at a height of 145ft. It was the last large church in Ireland to be made from stone, and features a huge octagonal dome that complements the skyline of the City of Galway. Inside the visitor will find the rose windows and wall paintings, which echo the broad tradition of Christian art, particularly impressive.

Spanish Arch



Galway's famous Spanish Arch is located on the left bank of the Corrib, where Galway's river meets the sea. The Spanish Arch was originally a 16th century bastion, which was added to Galway's town walls to protect merchant ships from looting. At this time, it was known as Ceann an Bhalla (Head of the Wall). Its current name "Spanish Arch" refers to former merchant trade with Spain, whose galleons often docked here. In 1755, the arches were partially destroyed by the tidal wave generated by the 1755 Lisbon earthquake. In recent times part of the Arch has been converted into the Galway City Museum.

For more information about Galway and its region please refer to:

<http://www.galwaytourism.ie/>

XII. Useful Numbers

Country dialling code: +353

City dialling code: 91

Railway Station Galway: 0909642105

Emergency, Police, Fire: 112 or 999

UNEP/CMS Secretariat: 0228 815 2426