



NMBAQC

NE Atlantic Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control Scheme



Sinelobus vanhaareni ©APEM



Thyasira sarsii ©APEM

[2025 Benthic Invertebrate Taxonomic Experts Workshop](#)
[Expression of Interest / Booking Form](#)

**1st September – 5th September 2025,
University of Galway, Galway, IE**

The NMBAQC Scheme was set up to provide quality control/assurance to the macrobenthic invertebrate elements of the Clean Seas Environmental Monitoring Programme (CSEMP; formerly the NMMP); it has since provided the external quality assurance for statutory monitoring to report to Government and the EU. These reporting requirements have led to the NMBAQC diversifying into other biological disciplines. The elements of the Scheme are detailed in the [NMBAQC website](#).

The macrobenthic component aims to improve the quality of macrobiota identification through practical workshops. Workshops are tailored to meet some of the current training needs reflected by participating laboratories in the Scheme.

The 2025 Workshop aims to:

- improve the quality of benthic invertebrate identification;
- educate benthic biologists in the accurate identification of tanaids and Thyasiridae;
- provide a venue for taxonomic discussion with experts in their fields.

The expression of interest form below is for places at the 2025 NMBAQC Scheme Taxonomic Experts Workshop. All are welcome; however, places are limited so places will be reserved on a first come first served basis with priority being given to current NMBAQC participants.

Please express your interest by 18th July 2025 by completing the form overleaf.

Please note that, as this is a self-funded workshop. Any subsequent request to cancel must be received by the **31st July 2025**. The workshop will be confirmed on the **1st August 2025** at which point any participant cancellations will be non-refundable. **It is strongly advised that participants do not book travel and accommodation until the workshop has been confirmed.**

A full refund of the participation fees will be provided if the workshop is cancelled by the organisers on or after the 1st August 2025. However, the scheme will not be responsible for covering any costs associated with the workshop (e.g. travel and accommodation) in the

event of cancellation, so please ensure you have the necessary insurance in place should this occur.

The Date:

1st September – 5th September 2025

The Venue:

MRI Annex Lab, Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute, University of Galway, Galway, Ireland.

The Organisers:

[APEM Ltd.](#) on behalf of the North East Atlantic Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control (NMBAQC) Committee

The target taxonomic groups and session leaders:



Zeuxo_holdichi ©APEM

Group:

Tanaidacea (Crustacea)

Sessions presented by:

Prof. Magdalena Błażewicz,
Researcher at University of Lodz,
Lodz,
Poland

Group:

Thyasiridae (Mollusca)

Sessions presented by:

Peter Barry
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and
Aquaculture Science (CEFAS),
Lowestoft,
UK



Thyasira biplicata ©APEM

The Cost:

The fee for the workshop is £975 (excluding VAT) per participant.

Costs cover expert tuition and including tea/coffee breaks, does not cover accommodation, subsistence.

The workshop dinner (venue **TBC**), 7:30 pm Thursday 4th September is **NOT** included in the cost of the workshop.

Optional Extras:

Workshop dinner on Thursday 4th September, venue TBC by 31st July.

Travel Information:

The nearest airport to Galway is Shannon Airport (SNN), located approximately 81 km (50 miles) away, and is about a 54-minute drive. While Dublin Airport (DUB) is also a common choice, it's a much longer distance, around 185 km (115 miles) and a 2 hour 13 minute drive. Ireland West Airport Knock (NOC) is another option, situated about 72 km (45 miles) from Galway, with a travel time of around 1 hour 15 minutes.

Accommodation:

Feedback from the participants at a previous NMBAQC workshop in Galway in 2023 was positive for the following accommodation options:

- Prague House (handmade breakfast, great hospitality, 18 minutes walk from University);
- Gort na Coiribe (basic accommodation, decent value for money, ~16 minutes from University);
- Jury's Inn (very clean, good breakfast, ~16 minutes from University);

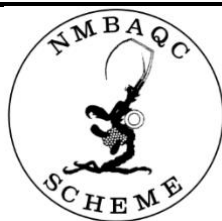
Conditions:

Invoices will be sent upon receipt of a booking form. The finalised programme will be forwarded as soon as it is available.

Participants will have access to basic microscopes and other equipment (forceps, dishes, alcohol, etc.) but may wish to bring their own laboratory microscopes and cold light sources (equipment requirements must be stated on the booking forms). Note that only 'student grade' microscopes are available. Please inform us at the time of booking if you require provision of microscopes.

Summary:

A full workshop timetable will be available soon. Participants should note that the workshop session commences at 10.00 am on Monday 1st September, the workshop dinner will be held on Thursday 4th September.



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[Expression of Interest / Booking Form](#)

Name:

Laboratory:.....

I would like to express an interest in _____ place(s) to attend the Taxonomic Experts Workshop (*please insert number*).

I understand that my expression of interest will remain provisional until the workshop is confirmed on 1st August 2025 and from this date any participant cancellations will be non-refundable.

Participant details and attendance options (*please complete in full*):

	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4	Participant 5	Participant 6
Name						
E-mail						
Telephone						
Special dietary requirements						
Microscope (f.o.c.)						
Workshop Dinner (cost TBC)						
Sub Total (excl. VAT) £						
Total (excl. VAT) £						
Invoice e-mail						
Invoice address						
Purchase Order No.						

Please return this form by the **18th July 2025** to:

Graham Phillips (Graham.phillips@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Coastal and Estuarine Assessment, Environment Agency, Rivers House, Lower Bristol Road, Bath, BA2 9ES