



Maine State Vernal Pool Assessment Form



insert: **Point of Contact** (this is person to call for more information and may not be the field scientist in many cases)

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all 3 pages and register.

Observer's Pool ID: _____ Project Name: _____

1. PRIMARY OBSERVER INFORMATION

Observer Name: _____

Contact and credentials previously provided? No (complete all of section 1) Yes (only name required)

Addendum 1: Observer credentials form

a. Contact Information

Name: _____ Company: _____
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

b. Credentials

■ Please check all that apply; Clear photographs or digital images of a) the pool and b) the indicators (one example of each species egg mass) are required by nonprofessional observers.

- Professional Herpetologist and/or Vernal Pool Ecologist
- Professional Wetland Scientist
- Professional Biologist (concentration: _____)
- Trained Citizen Scientist
- Self-informed Naturalist
- Other: _____

■ Indicate any professional education or training that qualifies you to survey vernal pools:

2. VERNAL POOL LOCATION INFORMATION

a. Location

Township: _____

Brief site directions to the pool (using mapped landmarks): _____

b. Mapping Requirements: At least 2 of the 3 must be submitted (check those submitted):

- USGS Topographic Map with pool clearly marked.
- Large Scale Aerial Photograph with pool clearly marked.
- GPS Coordinates (complete section below).
- GIS Shape File (observer attests to accuracy of .shp)

GPS location of vernal pool

Longitude/Easting: _____ Latitude/Northing: _____

Check Datum: NAD27 NAD83 / WGS84

Check one: The pool perimeter is delineated by multiple GPS points. (best option)
- Include map or spreadsheet with coordinates.

The above GPS point is at the center of the pool. (good option)

The center of the pool is approximately _____ m /ft _____ in the compass direction of _____ degrees from the above GPS point. (acceptable option)

c. Landowner Contact Information

add: Is VP survey part of a larger project that involves multiple property owners? Yes No
■ Are you the landowner? Yes No If no, was landowner permission obtained for survey? Yes No

■ Does SVP Habitat (pool + 250') extend across abutting landowner parcel? Yes No Unknown

■ Landowner's contact information (required)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

MOVE



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3. VERNAL POOL SURVEY INFORMATION

a. Survey Dates: _____ ?

b. Wetland Habitat Characterization

■ Choose the best descriptor for the landscape setting:

- Isolated upland depression
- Pool associated with larger wetland complex
- Floodplain depression
- Other: _____

■ Check all wetland types that best apply to this pool:

- Forested swamp
- Wet meadow
- Slow stream
- Shrub swamp
- Shallow pond
- Floodplain overflow / oxbow
- Peatland (fen or bog)
- Abandoned beaver flowage
- Headwater seepage
- Emergent marsh
- Active beaver flowage
- Other: _____

c. Vernal Pool Status Under the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)

i. Pool Origin: Natural Natural-Modified Unnatural Unknown

If modified, unnatural or unknown, describe any modern or historic human impacts to the wetland (required):

add another line for description

ii. Hydrology

■ Select the pool's estimated hydroperiod AND provide rationale for opinion.

- Permanent
- Semi-permanent (drying partially in all years and completely in drought years)
- Ephemeral (drying out completely in most years)
- Unknown

Explain:

_____ Add: _____

"pool" instead of "wetland"?

■ Faunal indicators (check all that apply):

- Fish (list species if known: _____)
- Bull frog or green frog tadpoles
- Other: - - - - -

MOVE

■ Maximum depth at survey: 0-12" (0-1 ft.) 12-36" (1-3 ft.) 36-60" (3-5 ft.) >60" (>5 ft.)

■ Approximate size of pool (at spring highwater): Width: _____ m ft Length: _____ m ft

■ Predominate substrate:

- Mineral soil (bare, leaf-litter bottom, or upland mosses present)
- Organic matter (peat/muck) shallow or restricted to deepest portion
- Mineral soil (sphagnum moss present)
- Organic matter (peat/muck) deep and widespread

■ Nonwoody pool vegetation indicators in order of increasing hydroperiod (check all that apply):

change this to read "check all that occur within pool" or have a check box for in pool and one for adjacent to pool - I often see boxes checked for veg that (based on photos) is not in the pool _ it think it's helpful to know if we're talking in the pool or adjacent to the pool - speaks to hydroperiod

- Sphagnum moss (anchored or suspended)
- Wet site ferns (e.g. royal fern, marsh fern)
- Wet site graminoids (e.g. blue-joint grass, tussock sedge, cattail)
- Aquatic vascular spp. (e.g. pickerelweed, arrowhead)
- Floating or submerged aquatics (e.g. water lily, water shield, _____)
- fern, interrupted fern, New York fern)
- Moist site vasculars (e.g. skunk cabbage, jewelweed, blue flag iris, swamp candle)

iii. Inlet/Outlet Permanency

Type of inlet or outlet (a seasonal or permanent channel providing water)

- No inlet or outlet
- Permanent inlet or outlet (channel with well established flow)
- Ephemeral inlet or outlet
- Other or Unknown (explain): _____

ephemeral or intermittent inlet or outlet

change to: Flow Characteristics of Inlet/Outlet - there may be a physical topographic feature that could be characterized as a perm inlet or outlet but it's the continuous hydrologic connection that needs to be established here



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3. VERNAL POOL SURVEY INFORMATION, continued from page 2

d. Significant Vernal Pool Status Under NRPA

i. Survey Dates: _____

ii. Abundance Criteria

- Was the entire pool comprehensively surveyed for egg masses? Yes No
- For each indicator species, indicate the exact number of egg masses, method of verification, confidence level for species determination, and egg mass maturity. Separate cells are provided for separate survey dates.

If no, estimate percentage of pool area surveyed: =====

INDICATOR SPECIES	Egg Masses (or adult Fairy Shrimp)			Tadpoles/Larvae		
	#	Method of Verification ¹	Confidence Level ²	Egg Mass Maturity ³	Method of Verification ¹	Confidence Level ²
Wood Frog						
Spotted Salamander						
Blue-spotted Salamander						
Fairy Shrimp						

it would be nice if we could expand this table to three columns (for 3 survey dates) if we have room once the method of verification column is removed

~~1-Method of verification: S = Seen, H = Handled, P = Photographed~~
 2-Confidence level: 1 = <60%, 2 = 60-95%, 3 = >95%
 3-Egg mass maturity: F = Fresh (<24 hrs), M = Mature (round embryos), A = Advanced (looser matrix, curved end)

iii. Rarity Criteria

- ~~Was a specific effort made to survey for rare species? Yes No~~
- ~~If yes above, indicate which species were targeted.~~
- Note any rare species associated with vernal pools. Check the method(s) of verification and fill in the confidence level (CL) for each species observation. Observations should be accompanied by photographs (labeled with observer name, pool location, and date).

SPECIES	Method of Verification*			CL**	SPECIES	Method of Verification*			CL**
	P	H	S			P	H	S	
Blanding's Turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Wood Turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Spotted Turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ribbon Snake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ringed Boghaunter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

*Method of verification: P = Photographed, H = Handled, S = Seen
 **CL - Confidence level in species determination: 1 = <60%, 2 = 60-95%, 3 = >95%

Add: - Observer's Recommendation: SVP Non-Sig VP Potentially Sig VP
 e. General Vernal Pool Comments and/or Observations of Other Wildlife: Indicator Spp.

Breeding Area (non-VP)

add: (photographs and a sketch are encouraged)

4. OBSERVER SIGNATURE

I hereby certify that the information contained in this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send completed form and supporting documentation to: Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
 Attn: Vernal Pools
 650 State Street, Bangor, ME 04401

For MDIFW use only Reviewed by MDIFW Date: _____ Initials: _____

This pool is: Significant Potentially Significant but lacking critical data Not Significant due to: does not meet biological criteria. does not meet MDEP vernal pool criteria.

MAWS VERNAL POOL DATA COLLECTION FORM: ADDENDUM 1

MAWS Vernal Pool Observer Credentials for Qualified Individuals

This form must be completed and submitted to MDIF&W (address below) at least once prior to submitting the MAWS Vernal Pool Data Collection Form, or when contact information changes.

1. Vernal Pool Observer Information

a. Contact Information

Name: _____ **Company:** _____
Street: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

b. Credentials

• **Please check all that apply:**

- Professional Herpetologist and/or Vernal Pool Ecologist (academic degree: _____)
- Professional Wetland Scientist (credentializing organization: _____)
- State-Certified or Licensed Wetland Scientist (State: _____)
- Professional Wildlife Biologist (credentializing organization: _____)
- MAWS Member with "Active" Membership Status
- Other: _____

• **Please list your professional education, training or certification that qualifies you to conduct biological surveys of vernal pools:**

2. Vernal Pool Observer Signature

I hereby certify that the information that I submit using the MAWS Vernal Pool Data Collection Forms will be true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and completed according to the standard procedures described in the current MAWS Vernal Pool Survey Protocol.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Send this form to: MDIF&W, Attn: Vernal Pools; 650 State Street; Bangor, ME 04401