Maine State Vernal Pool Assessment Form

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all 3 pages of form as thoroughly as possible. Most fields are required for pool registration.

Observer's Pool ID:_____ **MDIFW Pool ID:**_____

1. PRIMARY OBSERVER INFORMATION

a. Observer name:_____

b. Contact and credentials previously provided? ◯ No (submit Addendum 1) ◯ Yes

2. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

a. Contact name: ◯ same as observer ◯ other_____

b. Contact and credentials previously provided? ◯ No (submit Addendum 1) ◯ Yes

c. Project Name:_____

NOTE: Clear photographs or digital images of a) the pool and b) the indicators (one example of each species egg mass) are required for nonprofessional observers and encouraged for all observers.

3. LANDOWNER CONTACT INFORMATION

a. Are you the landowner? ◯ Yes ◯ No If no, was landowner permission obtained for survey? ◯ Yes ◯ No

b. Landowner's contact information (required)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

c. ☐ Large Projects: check if separate project landowner data file submitted

4. 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 data (complete section below).

GPS location of vernal pool

Longitude/Easting:_____ Latitude/Northing:_____

Check Datum: ◯ NAD27 ◯ NAD83 / WGS84 Coordinate system:_____

Check one: ◯ GIS shapefile
- send to Jason.Czapiga@maine.gov; observer has reviewed shape accuracy (best)

◯ The pool perimeter is delineated by multiple GPS points. (excellent)
- Include map or spreadsheet with coordinates.

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

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

5. VERNAL POOL HABITAT INFORMATION

a. Habitat survey date (only if different from indicator survey dates on page 3):_____

b. Wetland habitat characterization

■ Choose the best descriptor for the landscape setting:

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

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

- ☐ Forested swamp
- ☐ Shrub swamp
- ☐ Peatland (fen or bog)
- ☐ Emergent marsh
- ☐ Wet meadow
- ☐ Lake or Pond Cove
- ☐ Abandoned beaver flowage
- ☐ Active beaver flowage
- ☐ Slow stream
- ☐ Floodplain
- ☐ Isolated pool
- ☐ 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 pool (required):

ii. Pool 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:

■ 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 in order of increasing hydroperiod:

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

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

- ☐ Terrestrial nonvascular spp. (e.g. haircap moss, lycopodium spp.)
- ☐ Dry site ferns (e.g. spinulose wood fern, lady fern, bracken fern)
- ☐ Moist site ferns (e.g. sensitive fern, cinnamon fern, interrupted fern, New York fern)
- ☐ Moist site vasculars (e.g. skunk cabbage, jewelweed, blue flag iris, swamp candle)
- ☐ Sphagnum moss (anchored or suspended)
- ☐ Wet site ferns (e.g. royal fern, marsh fern)
- ☐ Wet site shrubs (e.g. highbush blueberry, maleberry, winterberry, mountain holly)
- ☐ Wet site graminoids (e.g. blue-joint grass, tussock sedge, cattail, bulrushes)
- ☐ Aquatic vascular spp. (e.g. pickerelweed, arrowhead)
- ☐ Floating or submerged aquatics (e.g. water lily, water shield, pond weed, bladderwort)
- ☐ No vegetation in pool

■ Faunal indicators (check all that apply):

- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Bullfrog or Green Frog tadpoles
- ☐ Other: _____

iii. Inlet/Outlet Flow Permanency

Type of inlet or outlet (a seasonal or permanent channel providing water flowing into or out of the pool):

- ◯ No inlet or outlet
- ◯ Intermittent inlet or outlet
- ◯ Permanent inlet or outlet (channel with well-defined banks and permanent flow)
- ◯ Other or Unknown (explain): _____

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6. VERNAL POOL INDICATOR INFORMATION

a. Indicator survey dates:_____

b. Indicator abundance criteria

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

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

1-Confidence level: 1 = <60%, 2 = 60-95%, 3 = >95%
2-Egg mass maturity: F= Fresh (<24 hrs), M= Mature (round embryos), A= Advanced (loose matrix, curved embryos), H= Hatched or Hatching
3-Fairy Shrimp: X = present

c. Rarity criteria

- Note any rare species associated with vernal pools. 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	☐	☐	☐		Wood Turtle	☐	☐	☐	
Spotted Turtle	☐	☐	☐		Ribbon Snake	☐	☐	☐	
Ringed Boghaunter	☐	☐	☐		Other:	☐	☐	☐	

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

d. Optional observer recommendation:

☐ SVP ☐ Potential SVP ☐ Non Significant VP ☐ Indicator Breeding Area

e. General vernal pool comments and/or observations of other wildlife:

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

NOTE: Digital submission (to Jason.Czapiga@maine.gov) of vernal pool field forms and photographs is only acceptable for projects with 3 or fewer assessed pools; larger projects must be mailed as hard copies.

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.

Comments: