



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: _____ **Project Name:** _____

1. PRIMARY OBSERVER INFORMATION

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

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).

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

■ 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: _____



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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):

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:

■ Faunal indicators (check all that apply):

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

■ 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):

- Terrestrial nonvascular spp. (e.g. haircap moss, lycopodium spp.)
- Sphagnum moss (anchored or suspended)
- Dry site ferns (e.g. spinulose wood fern, lady fern, polypody fern)
- Wet site ferns (e.g. royal fern, marsh fern)
- Moist site ferns (e.g. sensitive fern, cinnamon fern, interrupted fern, New York fern)
- Wet site graminoids (e.g. blue-joint grass, tussock sedge, cattail)
- Moist site vasculars (e.g. skunk cabbage, jewelweed, blue flag iris, swamp candle)
- Aquatic vascular spp. (e.g. pickerelweed, arrowhead)
- Floating or submerged aquatics (e.g. water lily, water shield, pond weed, bladderwort)

iii. Inlet/Outlet Permanency

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

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



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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.

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						

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 embryos), H= Hatched or hatching

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%

e. General Vernal Pool Comments and/or Observations of Other Wildlife:

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.