



Maine State Vernal Pool Assessment Form



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Complete all 3 pages of form thoroughly. Most fields are **required** for pool registration.
- **Clear photographs** of a) the pool AND b) the indicators (one example of each species egg mass) are **required** for all observers.

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:

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

- i. USGS topographic map OR aerial photograph with pool clearly marked.
- ii. **GPS location of vernal pool (use Datum NAD83 / WGS84)**

Longitude/Easting: Latitude/Northing:

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)



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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 | 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 | Dug pond or borrow pit |
| Shrub swamp | Lake or pond cove | Floodplain | Roadside ditch |
| Peatland (fen or bog) | Abandoned beaver flowage | Mostly unvegetated pool | Other: |
| Emergent marsh | Active beaver flowage | ATV or skidder rut | |

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 in box (**required**):

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|---------|
| 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) | Organic matter (peat/muck) shallow or restricted to deepest portion |
| Mineral soil (sphagnum moss present) | 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.) | Wet site ferns (e.g. royal fern, marsh fern) |
| Dry site ferns (e.g. spinulose wood fern, lady fern, bracken fern) | Wet site shrubs (e.g. highbush blueberry, maleberry, winterberry, mountain holly) |
| 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, bulrushes) |
| Moist site vasculars (e.g. skunk cabbage, jewelweed, blue flag iris, swamp candle) | Aquatic vascular spp. (e.g. pickerelweed, arrowhead) |
| Sphagnum moss (anchored or suspended) | 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 | Permanent inlet or outlet (channel with well-defined banks and permanent flow) |
| Intermittent inlet or outlet | Other or Unknown (explain): |



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6. VERNAL POOL INDICATOR INFORMATION

a. Indicator survey dates:

b. Indicator abundance criteria and pool survey effort

- Is pool depression bisected by 2 ownerships (straddler pool)? Yes No
- Was the entire pool surveyed for egg masses? Yes No; what % of entire 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 ⁴				
	Visit #1	Visit #2	Visit #3	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

4-Tadpoles/larvae: X = present

c. Rarity criteria

- Note any rare species associated with vernal pools. Observations should be accompanied by photographs.

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: