



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

Shrub swamp

Lake or pond cove

Floodplain

borrow pit

Peatland (fen or bog)

Abandoned beaver flowage

Mostly unvegetated pool

Roadside ditch

Emergent marsh

Active beaver flowage

ATV or skidder rut

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 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: