



# Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Vernal Pool Field Observation Form

(7/99)

(For use with *Guidelines for Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat*)

For office use only.

## 1. Pool location

Town \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

USGS Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  SERIES 7.5' X 7.5'

SERIES 7.5' X 15'

WRITTEN DIRECTIONS TO POOL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(USE ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY.)

THIS INFORMATION  
MUST BE SUBMITTED

## Instructions

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT CERTIFICATION, REFER TO *GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION OF VERNAL POOL HABITAT*.

PROVIDE ALL OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN BOXES 1-6. IF MORE SPACE IS REQUIRED, ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES. INCLUDE ALL REQUIRED PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTATION. SIGN THE FORM IN THE AREA PROVIDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE. **INCOMPLETE OR UNSIGNED SUBMISSIONS WILL BE RETURNED.**

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS REFER TO EACH OF THE NUMBERED BOXES.

1. THE 7.5 X 7.5 SERIES HAS THE LEGEND "7.5 MINUTE SERIES" IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER ALONG WITH THE QUADRANGLE NAME. THE 7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES IS SO LABELED IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER AND HAS THE QUADRANGLE NAME IN THE LOWER RIGHT CORNER.

WRITTEN DIRECTIONS **MUST** BE INCLUDED.

2 INDICATE THE FIRST AND LAST DATES THAT THE POOL OR ITS BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS WERE OBSERVED.

3. PART A AND B ARE FOR CERTIFICATION BY OBLIGATE SPECIES. PART C IS EITHER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (APPRECIATED) OR FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE FACULTATIVE SPECIES. IF CERTIFYING BY OBLIGATE SPECIES, PROVIDE A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE POOL HOLDING WATER AND AT LEAST ONE PHOTOGRAPH (OR AUDIO TAPE FOR CHORUSING) OF BREEDING ACTIVITY.

FOR CERTIFICATION BY FACULTATIVE SPECIES, PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE POOL HOLDING WATER AND PHOTOGRAPHS (OR TAPES) OF THE FACULTATIVE SPECIES AS REQUIRED. ADDITIONALLY, PROVIDE A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE POOL WHEN DRY OR OTHERWISE PROVE THAT IT HAS NO FISH.

## 2. Observation dates

First date pool/species observed \_\_\_\_\_

Last date pool observed \_\_\_\_\_ Last date species observed \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 A. Evidence: obligate amphibians Indicate date of observation.

* = RARE SPECIES	COURTING ADULTS	SPERMATOPHORES	EGG MASSES	SALAMANDER LARVAE	TRANSFORMING JUVENILES
SPOTTED SALAMANDER					
* BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER					
* JEFFERSON SALAMANDER					
* MARBLED SALAMANDER					
UNIDENTIFIED MOLE SALAMANDER					
	BREEDING CHORUS	MATED PAIRS	EGG MASSES	FROG TADPOLES	TRANSFORMING JUVENILES
WOOD FROG					
* SPADEFOOT TOAD					

## 3 B. Evidence: fairy shrimp

DATE OBSERVED \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 C. Evidence: facultative organisms Indicate date of observation.

* = RARE SPECIES	DATE OBSERVED	ACTIVITY OBSERVED	DATE OBSERVED	ACTIVITY OBSERVED
BREEDING SPRING PEEPERS			PAINTED TURTLES	
BREEDING GRAY TREEFROGS			SNAPPING TURTLES	
BREEDING GREEN FROGS			PREDACEOUS DIVING BEETLE LARVAE	
BREEDING LEOPARD FROGS			WATER SCORPIONS	
BREEDING PICKERAL FROGS			DRAGONFLY NYMPHS	
BREEDING AMERICAN TOADS			DAMSELFLY NYMPHS	
BREEDING FOWLER'S TOADS			DOBSONFLY LARVAE	
* BREEDING FOUR-TOED SALAMANDERS			WHIRLIGIG BEETLE LARVAE	
RED-SPOTTED NEWT (ADULTS)			CADDISFLY LARVAE	
* SPOTTED TURTLES			LEECHES	
* WOOD TURTLES			FINGERNAIL (FRESHWATER) CLAMS	
* BLANDINGS TURTLES			AMPHIBIOUS AIR-BREATHING SNAILS	

### Instructions (continued)

- 4. INDICATE THE PHOTOGRAPHS BEING SUBMITTED. LABEL, DATE, AND SIGN ALL PHOTOS.
- 5. MARK THE POOL CLEARLY ON ALL MAPS. THE POOL MUST BE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER WETLANDS AND BE RELOCATEABLE BY OTHERS. PROVIDE ANY MAPS THAT WOULD HELP SOMEONE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AREA LOCATE THE VERNAL POOL IN THE FIELD.
- 6. THE FORM **MUST** BE SIGNED. UNSIGNED SUBMISSIONS WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION.

**OPTIONAL INFORMATION:**

**PROPERTY OWNER.** PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT PROPERTY OWNER(S), IF KNOWN. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU SEEK PROPERTY OWNER PERMISSION PRIOR TO CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES.

**RARE SPECIES.** A PHOTOGRAPH IS NECESSARY FOR DOCUMENTATION OF RARE SPECIES HABITAT.

**DESCRIPTION.** PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION THAT WILL DISTINGUISH THE POOL FROM OTHER WETLANDS (BOULDERS, DEBRIS, TREE SPECIES, ETC.).

### Optional information

Although the following information is not required for certification, it is useful to NHESP to possibly better protect the vernal pool, its habitat and species.

#### Property owner

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT LANDOWNER PERMISSION BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO COLLECTING CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTATION.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

#### Rare wetland species

Y  N

WERE ANY RARE STATE-LISTED SPECIES OBSERVED USING THIS POOL?

Y  N

IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE RARE SPECIES INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING?

### 4. Photographs

MUST BE LABELED, DATED, AND SIGNED.

- POOL HOLDING WATER
- OBLIGATE +/-OR FACULTATIVE SPECIES
- DRY POOL (**REQUIRED** FOR EVIDENCE 3C)

### 5. Maps submitted

- USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP (**REQUIRED**)

**AND ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
- DISTANCES/COMPASS DIRECTIONS
- PROFESSIONAL SURVEY
- LARGE SCALE TOPO
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL EXTRA INFORMATION**

- SKETCH MAP OF AREA
- ASSESSOR'S MAP
- GPS LONGITUDE/LATITUDE COORDINATES

### Description of pool and surroundings

DIMENSIONS: APPROXIMATE LENGTH

APPROXIMATE WIDTH

APPROXIMATE DEPTH

DESCRIBE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES (ROADS, STRUCTURES, BOULDERS, ETC.) WHICH ARE VISIBLE FROM OR NEAR THE POOL.

ARE THERE OTHER DISTINCTIVE FEATURES ABOUT THIS POOL (VEGETATION TYPES, ABANDONED VEHICLES, FOOT TRAILS, ETC.) THAT WOULD HELP SOMEONE RECOGNIZE IT?

### 6. Observer information & signature

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify under the pains and penalties of perjury 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:**

NH&ESP  
 VERNAL POOL CERTIFICATION  
 MA DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
 ROUTE 135  
 WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581

All submissions and supporting documents will be retained by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. Information submitted on this form and other documents is part of the public record and is available to interested parties under the State Documents Request Law.