



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT SCREENING SURVEY DOCUMENTATION FORM (4/29/11)



### Can I use last year's Screening Survey Form?

**PLEASE do not use old forms.** The Screening Survey Form is updated from year to year and old forms are missing important information.

### Can I put more than one lake/pond on the same sheet?

If you sample multiple waterbodies, **PLEASE** use a separate sheet for each distinct waterbody.

### How do I fill out my form?

NOTE: It is best to use a pencil because some inks are water-soluble.

### **SECTION 1: General Information – *Don't forget to indicate if you have included a survey map!***

1. Fill out the top portion of the Screening Survey Form with the **waterbody name, town, county, state** (if other than Maine)
2. **MIDAS #:** Unique four-digit identification code for a lake (rivers do not have these codes) If unknown, contact VLMP-CIAP for information.
3. **Date/s:** Record the date as month, day, year
4. **Total Survey Hours:** Record total number of hours as # of hours spent conducting the survey on the water
5. **X # surveyors:** Enter the total number of surveyors that completed the survey
6. **Sectors/Location:** Record area surveyed with enough detail for someone unfamiliar with the area to locate the site. Please use permanent reference points whenever possible.
7. **Lead Surveyor:**
  - a. **Name:** Record first and last name. Please use name listed on certification card.
  - b. **IPP Certification #:** Record IPP certification number if applicable (if unknown contact VLMP-CIAP)
  - c. **IPP Training:** If you are not certified but have attended an IPP workshop by the VLMP, please mark **Y**.
  - d. **Phone # and/or Email Address:** Recording both email and phone is preferred
  - e. **Regional Affiliation:** Record lake association, agency, etc. that you are affiliated with if applicable
  - f. **Surveyor Type:**
    - IPP Volunteer** – Invasive Plant Patrol trained volunteer
    - Agency** – Staff from various agencies that conduct surveys, e.g. Auburn Water District, Maine DEP, Maine Department of Conservation Natural Areas Program
    - Research/Ed. Institute** – Students and /or faculty of a research institution (such as college or university)
    - Professional** – Trained professional, usually hired by the lake association and / or stakeholders
    - Other (explain)** – anyone who does not fit into the above categories
8. **Additional Surveyors:**
  - a. **Name:** Record first and last name
  - b. **IPP Certification #:** Record IPP certification number if applicable (if unknown contact VLMP-CIAP)
  - c. **IPP Training:** If you are not certified but have attended an IPP workshop by the VLMP, please mark **Y**.
9. **Survey Level:** Record the scope of the survey conducted. The following abbreviations are used to indicated the survey level:
  - Limited:** The thorough survey of a particular portion of the littoral zone (an area that would not typically be done in a level 1 survey).
  - Infestation Surveillance:** The primary purpose of the survey is to monitor a known infestation for changes in areal coverage, plant density and vigor, rate of spread, etc.
  - Level 1:** The points of public access and areas of concentrated boat traffic (e.g. marinas and narrow navigation channels) are surveyed. Survey areas extend horizontally along shoreline at least 100 meters (~300 feet) on either side of the high-risk zone, and outward along the entire length to the depth at which the bottom is no longer visible (typically between 9 and 13 feet).
  - Level 2:** The Level 1 areas were surveyed, plus the areas of the shoreline that are likely to provide suitable habitat for aquatic plants, such as shallow, sheltered coves.
  - Level 3:** Survey covers the entire shoreline area and littoral zone. (The littoral zone includes all regions of the waterbody where sunlight reaches the bottom and rooted aquatic plants are present.)

**By Sector:** Surveys are often done by teams of surveyors. Checking **By Sector** indicates that the survey being recorded covers one portion (or sector) of the survey area. Surveyor/s may take up to 3 years to complete the survey. A description of the sector boundaries (e.g. from the Rt. 3 public boat landing to the Birch View Camps) should be included in Section 1: General Information (see item 6 above). Applies to survey levels 1, 2, & 3 only.

**Entire:** Indicates that the survey was completed by one surveyor or one group of surveyors. Applies to survey levels 1, 2 & 3 only.

10. **Relative Water Level:** Darkened stain, occurring in bands that run horizontally along stony sections of the shoreline (most noticeable on large boulders) marks the “**Normal High**” water level for the waterbody. Check ‘**Above**’ for levels above these markers and ‘**Below**’ for levels lower than these markers.
11. **Screening Target/s:** Record target plant(s) of the screening survey whether all 11 invaders or a particular subset. If a subset, indicate the species targeted.
12. **Additional Survey Goals:** Record additional survey goals, e.g. inventory of dominant native plants by sector or by waterbody OR complete inventory of native plants including rare and endangered species.
13. **Plant Conditions:** Check the descriptor that best characterizes the general condition of the majority of the plants observed during your survey.
14. **Screening Method/s:** Record method employed to survey waterbody, may include more than one

OPTIONAL: Abbreviations can be used to indicate methods used in a particular area on survey map

#### **VISUAL METHODS**

**VR:** Visual Random Points - visual spot-check of areas on the waterbody

**VP:** Visual Plot Points – visual check of discrete points at regular intervals along a transect or grid

**VT:** Visual Transect – follow a predetermined continuous line between two points looking on both sides of the watercraft as far as the eye can see.

**VC:** Visual Complete Coverage – surveyed every area in the littoral zone.

#### **GRAB SAMPLE METHODS**

**GR:** Grab Sample Random Points – Sampling random points of the waterbody with grab sample tool

**GT:** Grab Sample Target Points – Sampling specific points of concern in the waterbody with the grab sample tool

**GP:** Grab Sample Plot Points - Sampling of discrete points at regular intervals along a transect or grid

15. **Maximum Depth of Plants Observed:** The maximum depth that plants were observed during the screening survey. Use a depth finder or marked, weighted line to determine depth.
16. **Light Conditions:** Record all light conditions that occur during the screening survey.
  - Bright:** you can see distinct shadows, the sky is clear
  - Cloudy Bright:** the day is bright but there are clouds in the sky
  - Overcast:** the day is gray and there is predominately cloud cover in the sky
17. **Surface Conditions:** Record all lake surface conditions that occur during the survey.
18. **Grab Sample Tool:** Record the appropriate type of grab tool used to conduct the screening survey, checking all that are used during the survey.
19. **Viewing Methods:** Record the appropriate viewing area of scope(s) used to conduct the screening survey, checking all that are used during the survey.
  - 4” diameter Tube Scope** 4” diameter tube scopes
  - 6” diameter Tube Scope** 6” diameter tube scopes.
  - 9-10”diam Bucket Scope or equivalent** include bucket scopes, kayak-size trunk case view scopes, and view canoes
  - Trunk Scope or equivalent** include large-sized trunk case scopes, storage bin scopes, and clear kayaks
  - Facemask or equivalent** include the use of facemask for snorkeling or SCUBA
  - Polarized Lenses** Polarized Lenses help reduce glare and make seeing plants from the surface easier
  - Naked Eye** On calm days, using your naked eye can increase your visual range from the surface
  - Other:** Please describe any scope that does not fit into one of the above categories

## **SECTION 2: Invasive Aquatic Plant Screening Survey**

1. **Suspected IAP?** Were any of the target invasive aquatic plants observed during the survey? Circle Yes or No.  
**PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL THIS OUT!**

### **FILL OUT THE REMAINDER OF THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO #1 ABOVE**

2. **Suspicious Plant Submitted?** Check Yes or No, indicate where the plant was sent and on what date
3. **IAP Code:** Invasive species are abbreviated as follows
  - BE** – Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*)
  - EM** – Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
  - EN** – European Naiad (*Najas minor*)
  - PF** – Parrot Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
  - VM** – Variable Leaf Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)
  - VMh** – Hybrid Variable Leaf Watermilfoil (*M. heterophyllum* x *M. laxum*)
  - WC** – Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*)
  - CP** – Curly-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)
  - EF** – European Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)
  - F** – Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*)
  - YH** – Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)
  - H** – Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
4. **Sector/Location:** Record area surveyed with enough detail for someone unfamiliar with the area to locate the site. Please use permanent landmarks whenever possible.
5. **GPS Waypoint:** Set of coordinates identifying location on survey map; usually longitude & latitude

- Buoy Code:** Record code on buoy marking the location of the potential invader.
- NOTES:** Record any additional observations or points of interest.

For more than 2 distinct IAP sightings, obtain an IAP Mapping Survey Documentation Form, available online at [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org)

### SECTION 3: Native Plant Inventory

- Common Native Plant Checklist:** The checklist is confined to common native plants only, and is not comprehensive. Space is provided at bottom to list additional plants. If taking inventory of plants in multiple discrete areas, please provide a label for each area in the space at the top of the columns to the right of the list in the area marked "Inventory by Multiple Discrete Areas." If taking a composite inventory of plants observed in the entire survey area, use the "Composite Inventory" column to the far right only.
- Inventory Symbol Key:** Located at the top of the back page this key identifies the type of abundance for the species observed.
  - ✓ = presence
  - D = dominant
  - U = uncommon
- Notes:** This column is for any additional information pertaining to the native plant inventory.

### SECTION 4: Observed Species of Concern

- Species of Concern Observed:** Examples of some species of concern are
  - Chinese Mystery Snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*)
  - Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)
  - Gleotrichia (*Gleotrichia echinulata*)
  - Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)
  - Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicria*)
  - Rusty Crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*)
  - Zebra mussel (*Creissena polymorpha*)
- Sector/Location:** Record area surveyed with enough detail for someone unfamiliar with the area to locate the site. Please use permanent landmarks whenever possible.
- GPS Waypoint:** Set of coordinates identifying location on survey map; usually longitude & latitude
- Buoy Code:** Record code on buoy marking the location of the species of concern.
- NOTES:** Record any additional observations or points of interest.

### EXAMPLES OF SCREENING SURVEY MAPS

