

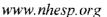
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Revisions to 'Guidelines for the Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat'

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife announces a 20 day public comment period to commence on January 7, 2009 relative to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program's (NHESP) recommended revisions to the *'Guidelines for the Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat'*. The NHESP has been certifying vernal pools with the *Guidelines* since 1988. The recommendations consist primarily of: 1) some revisions to the biological criteria to ensure certifications are consistent with the regulatory definition of "vernal pool habitat"; and 2) strengthening and clarifying the documentation requirements for certification.

Summaries of the NHESP's recommended revisions to the 'Guidelines for the Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat' are available from the NHESP's web site, <u>www.nhesp.org</u>, under 'Vernal Pools', then 'Vernal Pool Certification', then in the 'Quick Links' box (upper right corner) select 'Recommended Revisions - VP Certification Guidelines'

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/vernal_pools/vernal_pool_cert.htm/rec_rev_vp_cert.pdf. Comments may be submitted in writing to the NHESP until 5:00 PM January 27, 2009: Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program - CVP Revisions, Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581, <u>or</u> via e-mail to <u>natural.heritage@state.ma.us</u> (include `VP Revisions' in subject line).





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