

## **MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment Certification Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Physical Habitat Assessment certification?**

**\*\*\*NEW FOR 2024\*\*\* Physical Habitat Assessment certification will only be offered during MBSS summer training.**

Physical Habitat Assessment certification qualifies a person to collect stream physical habitat assessment data following MBSS protocols. This certification is good for one year from the date of issue.

To be certified, you must:

1. Be present during the presentations given on Physical Habitat Assessment at MBSS summer training.
2. Be present at the field demonstration given on Physical Habitat Assessment at MBSS summer training.
3. Pass a written test on Physical Habitat Assessment given at MBSS summer training.
4. Undergo a field audit given during MBSS summer training.

### **How much will each certification cost?**

Individuals seeking the MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment certification must pay the registration fee to attend MBSS training. There is no additional cost associated with this certification.

### **Can our firm/organization/agency become certified?**

No. Only individuals can be certified in MBSS physical habitat assessment.

### **Must I pursue all certifications offered at MBSS training?**

No. The MBSS certification is *a la carte*. You can choose which MBSS certifications to pursue.

### **How can I pay for physical habitat certification?**

Physical habitat certification is included with registration for MBSS training. Payments to attend MBSS training must be made in advance via credit card on DNR's online store. Please see the MBSS training website for details. Payments will not be accepted at the door, and we cannot admit walk-in registrants.

### **Can I attend MBSS training without certification? If so, what are the costs?**

Yes. MBSS training will continue, as in previous years, to be open to those who are not seeking certifications. Please check the MBSS training website for current registration costs. Physical habitat certification is included with the registration fee for MBSS training.

**Will MBSS trainings continue to be open to non-professionals?**

Yes. However, MBSS training registrations will continue to be accepted on a first come-first served basis.

**If I submit payment for registration but then cannot attend the training, can I get a refund?**

Training fee refunds will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

**How long does certification last?**

Physical Habitat Assessment certification is valid for one year from the date of issue.  
**\*\*\*Certifications earned in spring 2023 will be considered valid until June 1, 2024\*\*\***

**What will I receive if I pass all requirements for certification?**

Following completion of the MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment certification, your name and affiliation will be posted with your permission on the MBSS Certification Registry on the DNR website <http://dnr.maryland.gov/streams/Pages/mbsregistry.aspx>. MBSS certification may qualify you to work on certain stream-related projects in Maryland. Some state and county agencies are considering making MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment certification a requirement for working on certain projects.