

MBSS Certification Requirements 2024 Quick Reference

| Spring Certifications | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>Certification</i> | <i>Requirements</i> | <i>Training Date(s)</i> | <i>Time Required</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Certification Length</i> |
| Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling ¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend MBSS Spring Training during certification years 1-3 Pass written Benthic Sampling Protocol test administered at training during certification years 1-3 Complete one field audit and QA/QC benthic sample using standard MBSS protocols prior to sampling other sites during certification year 1 only | Feb. 22-23 | 2 Half Days + separate field audit | Year 1: \$750 + registration fee for spring training ² Years 2-3: Registration fee for spring training ² | 3 years |
| Benthic Macroinvertebrate Laboratory Processing and Subsampling ³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend MBSS Lab Training⁴ Pass written Benthic Sample Processing test administered during lab training Complete one QA/QC benthic subsample | TBD | 1 Day | \$425 | 3 years |
| Benthic Macroinvertebrate Taxonomy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possess Society for Freshwater Science (SFS) certification in genus level EPT (East) and North American Chironomidae taxonomy | Determined by SFS | Determined by SFS | Determined by SFS | 5 years (as determined by SFS) |

¹ Requires annual attendance of MBSS Spring Training; valid for three field seasons (years), inclusive of the season in which the certification was earned.

² 2024 Spring Training registration fee = \$75 per person

³ Held at DNR's Benthic Lab in Annapolis; Valid for three years from the date of laboratory certification.

⁴ Benthic Lab training (no cost) completed on the same day just prior to certification. Both are by appointment with MBSS Benthic Lab staff.

Summer Certifications

| <i>Certification</i> | <i>Requirements</i> | <i>Training Date(s)</i> | <i>Time Required</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Certification Length</i> |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Physical Habitat Assessment ⁴ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend MBSS Summer Training⁵ for physical habitat assessment Pass written Physical Habitat Assessment test Complete one field audit⁶ | TBD (day 1 of summer training) | 1 day | Registration fee for summer training | 1 year |
| Fish Crew Leader ⁷ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend MBSS summer training for fish sampling protocols during certification years 1-3 Pass written Fish Crew Leader test during certification years 1 - 3 Complete one field audit using standard MBSS protocols prior to sampling other sites during certification year 1 only | TBD (day 1 of summer training) | 1 day + separate field audit | Year 1: \$300+ registration fee for summer training Year 2-3: Registration fee for summer training | 3 years |
| Fish Taxonomy ⁸ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass fish taxonomy test administered during summer training during certification years 1 - 3 Complete one field audit prior to sampling other sites during certification year 1 only | TBD (day 4 of summer training) | 1 day + separate field audit | Year 1: \$300 + registration fee for summer training Year 2-3: Registration fee for summer training | 3 years |
| Fish Crew Leader and Fish Taxonomy Bundle ⁹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for Fish Crew Leader and Fish Taxonomy combined | TBD (days 1 and 4 of summer training) | 1 day + separate combination field audit | Year 1: \$400 + registration fee for summer training Year 2-3: Registration fee for summer training | |
| Mussel Taxonomy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass Mussel Taxonomy test administered during summer training Provide documentation of prior experience conducting mussel surveys | TBD (day 3 of summer training) | 1 day | \$50 + registration fee for summer training | Lifetime (provided all annual reporting requirements are met) |

⁴ Valid for one year from the date of issue.

⁵ 2024 Summer Training registration fee TBD. For reference, 2023 was \$250 for 4 days, \$100 for 1 day, and \$200 for 2 days.

⁶ Physical Habitat Assessment Certification audit to be conducted during summer training.

^{7,8} Valid for three field seasons (years), inclusive of the season in which the certification was earned.

⁹ Both audits must be conducted on the same day.