

The Savage River Trophy Trout Fishing Area is a 4.8 mile stream reach of the Savage River between the Savage River Reservoir Dam and its confluence with the North Branch Potomac River. The current regulation strategy includes a Fly-fishing Only Trophy Trout Fishing Area located in the section of the river from below the Savage River Reservoir Dam downstream approximately 1.4 miles to the Allegany Bridge. A Trophy Trout Fishing Area, restricted to the use of single-hook artificial lures or flies, is located between the Allegany Bridge and the mouth of the river, a distance of about 3.4 miles. Regulations for both Trophy Trout Fishing Areas include a year-round open season, a 12 inch minimum size limit for brook trout, an 18 inch minimum size limit for brown trout, and a two trout daily creel limit. There is no minimum size limit on rainbow trout in either area.



The Fishing and Boating Services staff conducting the 2019 trout population survey in the Savage River Trophy Trout Fishing Area. Photograph by Stephanie Richards.

The annual trout population surveys were conducted on July 30 and 31, 2019. The average combined adult trout species estimate was 876 ± 44 trout per mile, slightly below our management objective of 1,000 adult trout per mile throughout the river. The adult trout population composition was 91 percent brown trout, six percent brook trout, and three percent rainbow trout. The Fly Fishing Area contained about 827 adult trout per mile with 90 percent of the population consisting of wild brown trout and ten percent wild brook trout. The Artificial

Lures and Flies Area contained about 924 adult trout per mile with the population consisting of 91 percent wild brown trout, three percent wild brook trout and six percent rainbow trout. Reproduction was considered “good” with an average estimate of 704 young of year per mile (25 percent brook trout and 75 percent brown trout) during 2019. A large portion of the brown trout population was in the quality-size range of 12 to 15 inches. The number of quality-sized brown trout (> 12 inches) was estimated at 286 trout per mile. The largest brown trout collected during the surveys measured in at 16.1 inches.



Sarah Adams, DNR/Anne Arundel County's Professional Career Intern, posing with a beautiful wild brown trout from the Savage River Trophy Trout area. Photograph by Stephanie Richards.

Although the brook trout density estimate was only about 53 adult trout per mile in the Savage River tailwater in 2019, contacts with anglers indicated that brook trout are routinely caught. The largest brook trout collected during the sampling efforts was a 12.5 inch trophy trout. Brook trout strike flies and lures aggressively and are relatively easier for anglers to catch than brown trout, thus contributing to the overall fishing quality. Hatchery rainbow trout were collected in the lower section of the river and most likely swam from the put and take area of the North Branch Potomac River.



Fisheries biologist Kenny Wampler with a trophy brook trout from the Savage River Trophy Trout Fishing Area. Photograph by Alan Klotz.