

Savage River Reservoir Summary Report - Spring 2022

During mid-May, Freshwater Fisheries and Hatcheries Division (FFHD) staff completed night electrofishing surveys at ten, randomly selected locations on Savage River Reservoir. It is important to note that because of the steep shorelines in many parts of the impoundment, it is difficult to effectively sample the fishery. The following is a brief summary of the various gamefish and panfish data collected. This report is being generated to present basic size distribution and abundance information for the fishery in order to help anglers plan their fishing trip on Savage River Reservoir. More specific questions about the fishery or the management of individual fish species should be directed to the regional manager by emailing him at matt.sell@maryland.gov.

Key Terms:

Proportional Size Distribution (PSD) - A measure of the proportion of quality size and larger fish to the total fish in a population. Generally speaking, a higher PSD means that larger fish make up a higher percentage of the population and a lower PSD means that the fishery is dominated by smaller fish. Each species has a range of values that represent a balanced size structure.

Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) - A measure of relative abundance that is reported as the number of fish caught per sampling effort. In this case, numbers are reported as a CPUE₆₀, which represents the number of fish per 60 minutes (1 hour) of electrofishing effort. It is important to understand that this is a measure of relative abundance, not actual abundance and is used to track population trends through time.

<i>Species</i>	<i>PSD</i>	<i>CPUE₆₀</i>
<i>Largemouth Bass</i>	84 (69.63-98.37)	20 (11.85-28.15)
<i>Smallmouth Bass</i>	45.45 (24.65-66.26)	13.2 (9.42-16.98)
<i>Bluegill</i>	39.29 (21.2-57.38)	16.2 (9.24-23.16)
<i>Yellow Perch</i>	100 (100-100)	9 (6.8-11.2)
<i>Walleye</i>	60 (17.06-102.94)	7.5 (4.85-10.15)
<i>Rock Bass</i>	54.84 (37.32-72.36)	23.25 (17.96-28.54)

Black Bass

Largemouth and smallmouth bass were collected during spring electrofishing efforts in Savage River Reservoir. While smallmouth bass proportional size distribution (PSD) was indicative of a balanced fishery, largemouth bass had a PSD indicative of a population made up of larger fish and limited recruitment. When combined, the bass population in SRR provides great angling opportunities for both numbers and quality sized fish.



Panfish

Bluegill and yellow perch are the most abundant panfish species present in the reservoir. The bluegill

fishery is characterized as a balanced size structure and provides anglers with opportunities to catch numbers of quality fish. Yellow perch, however, were collected in low abundance in SRR during this survey. Of the stations sampled, preferred habitat for yellow perch was limited, likely resulting in low catch rates. Regardless, yellow perch are known to be abundant in the impoundment. Likewise, no crappie were collected during this survey, although a popular crappie fishery exists within the impoundment as well.

Walleye

Walleye were collected in low abundance during the survey due to seasonal movement and preferred habitat at that time of year. Sampling efforts during a spring spawn/walleye specific sample were more successful and showed multiple year classes, although this data was not included in the overall assessment of the fishery due to biases associated with sampling methods. This data suggests that a quality walleye fishery exists in SRR.