

## SOME SOURCES FOR FLOW INFORMATION TO MARYLAND TROUT STREAMS

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These levels are my estimates of when the wading becomes very difficult (max.) or most trout have fled the remaining pocket water (min.). The estimates are in cubic feet per second (cfs). At flows above these maxima, one can expect to have greater difficulty in wading across the stream, etc. At low flows, the trout have 'a full hour' to examine any fly or lure you may be using, as well as they can be very spooky in the slow pools. For most fishers, wading sets the limits as to where one can go, so the maxima given are about where the average experienced fisher will experience serious difficulty maneuvering around the stream. Further, the main point is that the flows listed below are only optimum in my experience. One can certainly fish at much higher or lower flows.

The two web sites to check for water flows are the Army Engineers (<https://www.nab-wc.usace....index.html>) and the US Geological Survey ([https://waterdata.usgs.....basin\\_cd](https://waterdata.usgs.....basin_cd)). These have links to the current flows and releases on such rivers as the Savage, North Branch, Youghioghney, Casselman, main Patuxent (Unity & Brighton), Gunpowder (nr. Parkton & Glencoe) and Middle/Little Patuxent (@ Savage, MD) and many others. At a few sites, the USGS also gives stream temperatures (\*). The two main Army Engineers sites are for Savage River Dam and Jennings Randolph Dam on the North Branch; they give pool level, inflow and out flow information. If the reservoirs are near capacity and you arrive just as a large rain storm ends, you may find those rivers in flood. Call 410-962-7687 (Baltimore office) for a tape recording of current and projected releases at Savage River Dam and on North Branch @ Jennings Randolph Dam; the tapes are typically updated each morning about 8 AM.

Another USGS site well worth checking is <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/rt>. This shows a map of Maryland with dots for the various stations. One can very quickly see from the colors of the dots where high flows are occurring or where drought is making the flows very low. For those stations that provide temperature data, it is also advisable to review recent temperature fluctuations. The COE has a web page well worth reviewing before heading to either the N. Branch or lower Savage [Projected Releases N Br & Savage](#): This page provides projected releases for Savage and Jennings Randolph dams, as well as a table for planned whitewater releases for the current year.

It is important to remember, these flow ranges are just for wade fishers; it is still possible to fish these streams at higher flows, but greater care and selection of the places to fish need to be made. The Glencoe gage on the Gunpowder reflects the inflow of the Little Falls just below Blue Mont Road. The Little Patuxent gage is useful for flows on the Middle Patuxent. The Unity gage is for the uppermost section of the main Patuxent, while the Brighton gage reflects the releases from Brighton Dam into the Patuxent. There are other gages that might be of interest, too.

Casselman @ Grantsville: gage ht: 1.0–2.8'

Gunpowder @ Parkton: 25–200 cfs

Gunpowder @ Glencoe: 50–300 cfs

Little Patuxent @ Savage, MD: 35–250 cfs ++

N Branch @ Barnum: 80–350 cfs ##\*

N Branch @ Luke: 100–400 cfs ##

Patuxent @ Unity: 15–130 cfs

Patuxent @ Brighton: 25–150 cfs

Savage R @ Barton (upper river): 20–100 cfs\*

Savage @ Bloomington: 50–150 cfs\*

Town Cr @ Oldtown: 70–325 cfs

Youghioghney @ Hoyes Run: 75–550 cfs ## \$\$

++—Also covers Middle Patuxent Delayed Harvest.

##—For floating these river sections, the "optimum minimum flows" are just a little below the maxima listed above for wade fishing, unless the fisher plans on spending a lot of time pulling or pushing his craft over the rocks.

\$\$—Deep Cr. power plant regularly generates power; the flows typically increase the depth by about 6", so if the flows are already high one must be careful or he will be stranded on the far side of the river for several hours.

Conversely, if the flows are low, then the increase will likely benefit the fisher and the trout; wading will still be possible. Call 814-533-8911 for tape recording of projected releases.

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