

March  
2019

# Communications Committee Update

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Waters to Watch Overview





# Campaign History

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Over 110 projects since 2007





## EPA in Maryland

# Brook Trout Back in Aaron Run

## Stories of Progress in Achieving Healthy Waters

U.S. EPA Region 3 Water Protection Division

Garrett County, Maryland • December 17, 2015

Following a series of acid mine drainage (AMD) projects funded largely by EPA's Clean Water Act Section 319 non-point source program, the pH level in Aaron Run is meeting Maryland's water quality standard – and the brook trout are back.

In October 2015, EPA's Mid-Atlantic Water Protection Division approved Maryland's request to remove the pH impairment for the three-mile mainstem of Aaron Run from the state's list of impaired waters. Three years of monitoring data demonstrated that the mitigation projects worked to raise the pH to the required level – suitable for the reintroduction of brook trout and other native coldwater stream fish species.

Water flowing through abandoned deep coal mines and reclaimed surface mines – along with the erosion of coal waste piles dumped along stream banks – had dropped the pH level in parts of Aaron Run to as low as 3.5 – which violated the state's minimum pH standard of 6.5 and was not meeting an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).



A medium-sized brook trout. Photo credit: Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

### AT A GLANCE

- **Aaron Run removed from Maryland's list of impaired waters**
- **Projects to control acid mine drainage bring pH level up to standard. Stream restocked with native fish.**



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# Population Of Brook Trout Restored In Western Maryland Watershed

December 6, 2018 at 10:15 am Filed Under: [Garrett County](#), [Local TV](#), [Trout](#)



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## Chris Dollar: Resurgence of brookies an encouraging sign



Annapolis native John Neely, Jr. shows off a beautiful brook trout he caught on the fly in the Savage River drainage. (John Neely / HANDOUT)

By **Chris D. Dollar**  
cdollar@cdollaroutdoors.com

DECEMBER 15, 2018, 4:15 PM

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# 2019 Campaign Changes

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- *Waters to Watch nominations should be reflective of projects completed over the past 24 Months or projects with dedicated funding allocated for the current year with the intention of the project being initiated during the current calendar year.*





# Rollout plan

- Deadline for Submissions from FHPs (May 31)
- Conference call of Partnerships Committee/Communications Committee (Week of June 3rd)

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- Project list sent to Board for Approval (June 10)
- 2019 Waters to Watch Announcement (week of June 17)
- National Press Release, National distribution plan
- Targeted Social Media promotions (Facebook, Twitter)
- Email Newsletter
- Coordination with PR contacts within state/federal agencies and conservation organizations