



Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited

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December 8, 2008

Director Humphries and Chief Smith,

I wanted to send you both a note of appreciation for your response to our input on regulations for the Au Sable Trophy Waters. I understand that the proposed changes to the regulations will be postponed during 2009, while additional creel data is collected to help ensure the most appropriate regulations are placed on this important fishery. I also understand that the Department has officially stated its intent to re-evaluate the current trout stream regulations framework. Both of these efforts speak loudly on behalf of the Department's desire to ensure the highest level of professional fisheries management is achieved for our precious Michigan fisheries. These efforts are incredibly appreciated. Thank you both very much.

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Our organization's guiding documents do not give preference to certain harvest practices (e.g. exclusive catch and release) or particular angling methods (e.g., fly fishing only). In that, we are much like the DNR – we have responsibility to all of our members to advocate for high quality fisheries that provide diverse recreational opportunities. We enthusiastically look forward to working with the DNR to both further evaluate appropriate regulations for the Au Sable Trophy Waters, and to be of help in the process of re-evaluating the trout stream regulations framework.

Again, thank you both very much for the consideration you gave to our concerns.

Sincerely,

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cc: Kurt Newman
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John Madigan
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To conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds