



# Attention: Water Temperature Alert



**This section of the AuSable is prone to sustained spikes in water temperatures above 68 degrees.** In these instances, trout are much less likely to survive catch and release. Please see the QR codes below and scan with your phone to access conditions for the last week at the designated USGS Station.

**If the water temperature is at or above 68 degrees, please consider not fishing!**  
**Survival of our trout depends on this.**

**If you continue fishing, please be advised that trout might not survive unless you follow these guidelines to ensure the survival of a released trout:** (These water alerts do not apply to anglers who are fishing in non-catch and release areas and intend to harvest their catch.)

- 1. Subdue the trout as quickly as possible.** Use heavier leaders and tighter drags on your reel.
- 2. Do not remove the fish from the water.** Unhook the fish while in the net or hand with as much of the fish in the water as possible. Try to limit the amount of time that a fish is unable to breathe to less than 10 seconds.
- 3. If using a net, allow the unhooked fish to remain submerged in it for a minute or so after being unhooked.** If unhooking the fish required extra time and handling, then this period should be extended.
- 4. Release the fish in an area where it can be observed while recovering.** If necessary, hold the fish by its tail to help it retain balance - never grasp the fish tightly by its midsection because this will increase stress and possibly harm internal organs. A fish that turns on its side or begins to tumble is in serious distress and will need to be held in the upright position until it regains its balance.
- 5. Observe and manage a stressed fish for several minutes - a good guideline is at least 10 minutes.** If the fish is resting well and not going to its side, then this can be a good time to take a photo of it. Otherwise, holding up trout for a photo under these conditions is not advised.
- 6.** If the trout does not recover and the regulations allow for harvest, then the trout should be kept.

**A section of the river where the water temperature has been at or above 70 degrees for over 24 hours, is not conducive to catch and release fishing.** Anglers should either harvest the fish, if regulations allow, or find another section with water temperatures more favorable for catch and release fishing. Please consult (website) for further information.

Readings vary for commercial temperature gages. The USGS readings for water temperature are the legal standard and should be used when possible.

You can scan the QR codes below to get current temperatures at these USGS sites or enter an internet search of USGS and the number listed below each site:

Chase Bridge	Smith Bridge	Red Oak	Mio	NB Au Sable	Upper Manistee
					
04135687	04135700	04136000	04136500	04135800	04123500