

Portions of the South Branch Au Sable River from Steckert Bridge to the mouth have been managed with a variety of special regulations since 1952. Since about 1970, special regulations have been applied to waters between Chase Bridge and the river mouth. During this time many evaluations of fishing regulations were conducted. Both fish populations and angler harvest were monitored. Fish population estimates were made for many years at Chase Bride, Marlabar (Daisy Bend), Dog Town, and Smith Bridge. The Marlabar station lies upstream of Lower High Banks, and the Dog Town station is between Lower High Banks and Smith Bridge. Presently, the Smith Bridge population index station on the South Branch Au Sable is one of 64 sites in Michigan where trends in fish populations will be monitored. For more information on the Statewide Status and Trends Program and a list of long-term monitoring sites see the following link [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364\\_10951\\_11302-96503--,00.html#737](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364_10951_11302-96503--,00.html#737)

Table 1. - Summary of fishing regulations in effect for the South Branch Au Sable River between Chase Bridge and the river mouth from 1972 through 2008.

Year and river reach	Possession Season	Tackle	Harvest Limit	Minimum Size Limit		
				Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout
1972-1973; Chase Bridge to Lower High Banks	Last Sat. in April through October	Flies only	5	10	7	10
1974-1982; Chase Bridge to Lower High Banks	Last Sat. in April through October	Flies only	5	10	8	10
1973-1999; Lower High Banks to mouth	Last Sat. in April through October	Flies only	5	10	8	10
1983 -1999; Chase Bridge to Lower High Banks	No Possession season. Angling permitted from last Sat. in April through October	Flies only; No Kill	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000-2008; Chase Bridge to Lower High Banks	No Possession season. Angling permitted all year	Flies only; No Kill	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000-2008; Lower High Banks to river mouth	Last Sat. in April through September. Open to angling all year	Flies only	5/3, no more than 3 over 15 inches	15	10	15