

Michigan River Clean up

Michigan is well known for being the “Great Lake State”, but the state is filled with beautiful rivers that wind throughout our state. These rivers are the site of many events and have created great memories for visitors throughout Michigan’s history. Sadly, they have become neglected and debris has begun to build up and take away from that natural beauty. It has also had an impact on the wildlife that calls these rivers home. One such river is the Ausable River. Neglect and littering have really had an impact on not only the beauty of the river but the fish that live in it. This is a problem that deserves solving. Fortunately there is a group called the Ausable Anglers who are trying to do just that. According to the Michigan Environmental Council website at one of their events Five cubic yards of debris were collected, much of it non-returnable water and juice bottles; However this just a small portion of the river. This is great that they are getting that much out, but the fact that there was so much there is a sad problem for the river. This problem also affects the wildlife in the area, and being an avid fisherman I have noticed a decline just by lack of catches or bites. According to a case study done by the Michigan DNR the average trout numbers have declined since 2000. They have also decline severely since 1960 when they were at their height. Overall this problem affects a lot of people including myself. The beauty and safety of our rivers is taking a hit because of this debris and lack of attention to it by the visitors to our rivers. The littering in our rivers has affected the wildlife and the overall beauty of our rivers including the Ausable. We must have more groups like the Ausable Anglers that are going to help clean these rivers. The MEC and DNR are trying avidly all the time but we as citizens and visitors to the rivers must take it upon ourselves to help them and the wildlife out and keep them clean.

Bibliography

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