

## The Little Manistee is a gem

First stocked in the mid 1800s, the Little Manistee is today a naturally reproducing steelhead stream. It is a cold and clear stream that provides its fish with abundant insects, baitfish and fish eggs.

The Little Manistee weir is one of the primary egg taking

facilities for the great lakes. It provides Chinook and Steelhead eggs for many of the Great Lakes stocking programs. The weir gates are typically closed from the middle of August until the middle of October. The DNR closes the gates for steelhead from early March until the first

or second week in April. The DNR also closes the river to anglers from January 1st to April 1st every year.

Each access point along the river has a US Forestry sign at the entrance.



*The weir on the Little Manistee, below Six Mile Bridge (at left), and at Six Mile Bridge (below).*







*The Big Manistee*



*Below Tippy Dam on the Big Manistee, Site 1*





*The path at Sawdust on the Big Manistee, Site 4*



*Little Manistee at Nancy's Bluff, Site 5*





## The Platte: Skinny Water to Surf-casting

**T**he Platte flows westerly, rising from a series of lakes and feeder streams west of Traverse City. The present upstream limit for anadromous fish is the US-31 Bridge at Veterans Park, approximately 3.5 miles east of the Village of Honor. From beneath this bridge, the river flows cold and clear to Platte River Point. Here it gently glides into Lake Michigan. It does, however, also flow through two lakes, Platte and Loon, and a dismal swamp, on its way to this

pristine location in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Seashore. Surf fishing for virtually all the species in the river takes place here in Lake Michigan.

The Platte River is not deep, typically 18 inches to 3 ft., with occasional holes. Its width varies anywhere from 30 ft. to riffles and runs expanding much greater. As with many excellent trout streams, you will find a substrate of gravel, sand, silt, and muck. Woody debris is both sweeping into the flow of the river along its banks, but also clawing itself

into the stream bed, providing excellent cover.

This river is not typical of many other Lake Michigan streams that have a run of steelhead. Its flow is consistently cold and it does not rise or color as many other west side rivers. Keeping a low profile and minimizing your rod movement are tactics that could be rewarding to you. Lighter tackle and smaller egg flies and nymphs increase your chances of a hook-up in this skinny water stream