

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Cape Fear River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Cape Fear River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Clint Morgeson & Madison Polera

Date of sample:

3/30/2017

Area(s) of river sampled, and water temps:

East Arcadia, Elizabethtown, Tar Heel

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Lock & Dam 1, Lock & Dam 2, Lock & Dam 3

Species (spp) information:

- Spp. captured:
American Shad
- Numbers by spp:
American Shad 155
- Size range by spp:
American Shad 15–22 in
- Max size for spp:
American Shad 22 in, 4.5lbs
- Sex ratio by spp:
American Shad 103 Males, 52 Females
- Were the fish tagged?
No fish were tagged

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

River level and other water quality observations (turbidity, etc.):

The Cape Fear River was 64°F, slightly turbid, and experiencing low streamflow. Streamflow was 1,730 cfs at Lock & Dam 1. This is approximately 25% of normal streamflow.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

65°F and cloudy.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

Anglers were catching American Shad at each of the Locks & Dams.

Comments to anglers about your sampling results, and fishing-related conclusions that can be drawn from your data:

Large aggregates of American Shad were present at Lock & Dam 2 and Lock & Dam 3, indicating the spike in water temperature over the last week has initiated upstream spawning migrations. Anglers should be able to find shad at any of the Locks & Dams.

2017 Cape Fear Creel Survey Information:

Dr. Drew Cathey of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) shared some creel survey information collected from different stretches along the Cape Fear River. The creel surveys are conducted during March, April, and May in the upper portions of the Tar, Neuse, and Cape Fear rivers. The surveys are administered by the Division of Marine Fisheries through Coastal Recreational Fishing License funding, and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission assists with survey design and data interpretation in the upper portions of each river.

March 22–28

Scattered thunderstorms dampened activity over the weekend. Elwell's Ferry had minimal effort with no catch reported. Lock and Dam 2 has been slow with no shad caught from the bank or from boaters. According to reports from WRC biologists, it appears shad fishing effort and success has increased over the last few days compared to the report from DMF staff from earlier in the week.