

# Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Cape Fear River

## **BASIC INFO:**

River sampled:

Cape Fear River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kyle Rachels, Clint Morgeson, Madison Polera

Date of sample:

4/18/2017

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  
Striped Bass
- Numbers by spp:  
American Shad      311  
Striped Bass        2
- Size range by spp:  
American Shad      15–22 in  
Striped Bass        22–23 in
- Max size for spp:  
American Shad      22 in, 4lbs  
Striped Bass        23 in, 5lbs
- Sex ratio by spp:  
American Shad      197 Males, 114 Females  
Striped Bass        2 Males
- Were the fish tagged?  
Striped Bass were tagged with red or yellow external tags.

## **ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:**

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

The Cape Fear River was 71°F and slightly turbid. Streamflow was 1,680 cfs at Lock & Dam 1 and well below normal for April.

Weather conditions on sampling date?  
70°F and light showers.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were quite a few boat and bank anglers at Lock & Dam 2 and Lock & Dam 3. Anglers were catching shad, catfish, and a few Striped Bass.

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 each of the Lock & Dam sites. Shad anglers should be successful throughout the river. Water temperatures have warmed considerably since last week and Striped Bass are moving upriver.

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.*

**April 13–21**

Lock and Dam #3 saw a handful of shad over the past week. Lock and Dam #1 and #2 saw limited action with a few American shad landed.