

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:

4/25/2017

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 97
Striped Bass 1
- Size range by spp:
American Shad 15–22 in
Striped Bass 20 in
- Max size for spp:
American Shad 22 in, 4lbs
Striped Bass 20 in, 4lbs
- Sex ratio by spp:
American Shad 64 Males, 33 Females
Striped Bass 1 Female
- 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 69°F and very turbid. Streamflow was 4,800 cfs at Lock & Dam 1 and rising rapidly.

Weather conditions on sampling date?
65°F and overcast.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:
There were a few anglers at Lock & Dam 1 and Lock & Dam 2.

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

Flood waters have completely submerged Lock & Dam 2 and Lock & Dam 3, and will allow American Shad and Striped Bass to access spawning grounds above Fayetteville. Due to the flood waters, angling will be difficult or dangerous. USACE boat ramps and facilities adjacent to all three locks and dams are likely to be closed during flooding. For more information and phone numbers for the locks and dams, please visit the USACE webpage (<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/Cape-Fear-Locks-and-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.

April 22–26

The past week saw an increase in American shad catch at lock 3. Some big catfish have been coming out at lock 3 as well. Lock 2 shad catches are still steady.