

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:

May 3 – May 5, 2017

Area(s) of river sampled:

East Arcadia, Tar Heel, Smiley's Falls, Buckhorn Dam

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Lock & Dam 1, Lock & Dam 3, Lillington, Buckhorn

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

The Cape Fear River was 68°F and very turbid. Streamflow was 16,000 cfs at Lock & Dam 1 and slowly falling.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

65°F and sunny.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

No anglers were observed.

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

High streamflow continues to submerge Lock & Dam 2 and Lock & Dam 3. We encountered very few fish at any of the locations sampled. The high streamflow renders angling and boating activities dangerous, and many boat ramps are closed. 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.

No report this week due to flood conditions on the Cape Fear.