

# 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 8 – May 11, 2017

Area(s) of river sampled:

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      1  
Striped Bass        60
- Size range by spp:  
American Shad      18 in  
Striped Bass        16–30 in
- Max size for spp:  
American Shad      18 in, 2lbs  
Striped Bass        30 in, 12lbs
- Sex ratio by spp:  
American Shad      1 Female  
Striped Bass        44 Males, 16 Females
- 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 70°F and slightly turbid. Streamflow was 5,800 cfs at Lock & Dam 1 and falling.

Weather conditions on sampling date?  
80°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:

Flood waters have allowed migrating American Shad to access the spawning grounds between Erwin and Buckhorn Dam, and few shad remain in the lower river at the locks and dams. Striped Bass spawning migrations peaked this week at Lock & Dam 1. With spawning migrations nearing completion, catfish angling should be picking up.