

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Neuse River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Neuse River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Ben Ricks, Kelsey Lincoln, Bennett Wynne

Date of sample:

3/27/2017-3/30/2017

Boat ramp(s) used to access river, Area(s) of river sampled, and water temps:

Cox's Ferry BAA, Goldsboro, NC 59°F
Maple Cyprus BAA; Fort Barnwell, NC; 54°F

Species (spp) information:

- Species and number captured:

Goldsboro; Hickory Shad (2) American Shad (39)
Fort Barnwell; Striped Bass (1)

- Size range by spp:

Hickory Shad: 12-18 inches
American Shad: 16-22 inches
Striped Bass: 21 inches

- Max size for spp:

Hickory Shad: 2 pounds
American Shad: 4 pounds
Striped Bass: 4 pounds

- Sex ratio by spp:

Hickory Shad: 1:1
American Shad: 1.2:1
Striped Bass: 1:0

- Were the fish tagged? All Striped Bass were tagged.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

The Neuse River is very low with high turbidity. Water temperatures were low early in the week but are increasing.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

Rainy then Sunny; 65°F

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were a few anglers out on the river fishing for shad and Largemouth Bass.

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

The Hickory and American shad are on or moving toward the spawning grounds. The sudden increase in temperatures has increased the shad movement to the spawning grounds and spawning activity has begun. Abundances should increase over the coming weeks. Striped Bass are staging in the lower Neuse River and are beginning to move up stream.

2017 Neuse River 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 Neuse 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

Upper Region (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Anglers were out targeting shad on the Upper Neuse this week. No shad were reported from Milburnie Park, despite consistent effort. A few American Shad were caught from HWY 117 in Goldsboro.

Central Region (Core Creek to Seven Springs, Goldsboro Area). The shad run continues to be in full swing for the fifth week in a row throughout the entire middle Neuse. Anglers reported nice catches of hickory shad with American shad mixed in. The best catches were reported from the Seven Springs and Kinston area. A few striped bass were landed by those targeting them.

Lower Region (Spring Garden to New Bern)

Lees Landing had several people fishing for speckled trout, with 10 kept and 91 released undersized. Most of these fish were caught in the inland portion of

Upper Broad Creek. Additionally, 8 undersized stripers were released in Upper Broad Creek. Spring Garden saw one undersized striped bass from inland portions of Swift Creek and one legal fish (over slot) in joint waters of Neuse River. Five hickory shad were caught in Pitchkettle Creek and three were caught from the Neuse River.