

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:

4/11/2017–4/13/2017

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

Cox's Ferry BAA, Goldsboro, NC 63°F
Trenton BAA; Trenton, NC; 65°F

Species (spp) information:

- Species and number captured:

Goldsboro; American Shad (52) Striped Bass (6)
Trenton; American Shad (11) Striped Bass (1)

- Size range by spp:

American Shad: 15-22 inches
Striped Bass: 17-33 inches

- Max size for spp:

American Shad: 4 pounds
Striped Bass: 16 pounds

- Sex ratio by spp:

American Shad: 1:1
Striped Bass: 2:1

- Were the fish tagged? One Striped Bass was tagged the others went to the hatchery for broodfish.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

The Neuse River water level has dropped significantly since Sunday. Water temperatures are fairly stable.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

Sunny; 75°F

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

We saw one catfish angler and one bass angler on the Neuse River this week.

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

American shad spawning is in full swing and will likely continue for most of this month. There are plenty of American Shad in the Goldsboro area currently. Striped Bass are finally starting to show up on the spawning grounds, and abundances should increase over the coming weeks.

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.

April 5–12

Upper Region (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Water levels receded some in the Upper Neuse over the past week. A couple of American shad were reported from Milburnie. No Shad were reported from the Goldsboro area.

Central Region (Core Creek to Seven Springs, Goldsboro Area).

Once again the Middle Neuse saw a diminished shad effort and no shad were reported. Anglers targeting striped bass reported several keepers and a 14.5lb striped bass was observed in the Maple Cypress area.

Lower Region (Spring Garden to New Bern)

Lawsons Creek reported a handful of keeper striped bass and many that were undersized. Brice's Creek also reported a few keeper striped bass.