

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:

4/25/2017

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

Cox's Ferry BAA, Goldsboro, NC 63°F

Species (spp) information:

- Species and number captured:

Goldsboro: American Shad (15) Striped Bass (4)

- 2017 Size range by spp:

American Shad: 15-22 inches

Striped Bass: 14-33 inches

- 2017 Max size for spp:

American Shad: 4 pounds

Striped Bass: 17 pounds

- Sex ratio by spp:

American Shad: 1:1

Striped Bass: 4:0

- Were the fish tagged? All Striped Bass were tagged

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

The Neuse River water levels have risen significantly since Monday's rain. The water is extremely turbid and water temperatures have cooled.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

Sunny; 75°F

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

Few anglers were out on the river this week.

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

The intense rain from Monday has increased water levels and cooled the water. Few fish were collected in Goldsboro on Tuesday. Once water levels return to normal, both American Shad and Striped Bass should be found on spawning grounds. Any boaters should exercise extreme caution while water levels are high in the Neuse River.

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 22–26

Upper Region (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Shad effort decreased across the Upper Neuse. A couple of American shad were reported from Cox's Ferry as well a few striped bass. No Shad were reported from the Raleigh area. Anglers were also targeting bass and catfish.

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

Anglers reported catching stripers out of the Maple Cypress BAA. Catches included fish in the slot as well as some nice above slot fish mixed in. Good catches of largemouth bass were reported as well with majority of fish being "keepers". Anglers targeting sunfish and catfish also had success.

Lower Region (Spring Garden to New Bern)

Lawsons Creek and the Neuse River reported undersized striped bass. This area also reported a handful of red drum returned legally, and one flounder.