

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:

5/1/17 – 5/4/17

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

Anderson Point BAA, Raleigh, NC 66°F

Smithfield BAA, Smithfield, NC 66°F

HWY 42, Clayton, NC NC 66°F

Species (spp) information:

- Species and number captured:

Raleigh: American Shad (106) Striped Bass (32)

Smithfield: Striped Bass (4)

Clayton: Striped Bass (2)

- 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: 1.4:1

Striped Bass: 10:1

- Were the fish tagged?

19 Striped Bass were tagged

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

The Neuse River was at flood stage for most of the week. The water is extremely turbid and water temperatures have remained similar to last week's water temperatures.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

Sunny; 78°F

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

Few anglers were out on the river this week. Due to flooding access was severely limited.

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

The intense rain from last week has left water levels high. American Shad abundances have peaked in the Raleigh area, and shad are still observed occasionally downstream. Sampling for Striped Bass has been difficult due to high water. The largest concentration of Striped Bass was observed below Milburnie Dam. Striped Bass spawning activity may be dwindling. 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.

No report this week due to flood conditions in the Neuse River.