

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:

5/8/17 – 5/11/17

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

Ferry Bridge BAA, Goldsboro, NC 67°F
Anderson Point BAA, Raleigh, NC 67°F
HWY 42, Clayton, NC 67°F
HWY 117 BAA, Goldsboro, NC 67°F

Species (spp) information:

- Species and number captured:

Goldsboro (Ferry Bridge): American Shad (24) Striped Bass (5)
Raleigh: American Shad (64) Striped Bass (27)
Clayton: Striped Bass (4)
Goldsboro (HWY 117): Striped Bass (66)

- 2017 Size range by spp:

American Shad: 16-20 inches
Striped Bass: 16-32 inches

- 2017 Max size for spp:

American Shad: 3 pounds
Striped Bass: 11 pounds

- Sex ratio by spp:

American Shad: 2.29:1
Striped Bass: 5:1

- Were the fish tagged?

80 Striped Bass were tagged

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

The Neuse River water levels were still high and in some places remained above flood stage for parts of the week. The water was extremely turbid and water temperatures have remained similar to last week's water temperatures.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

Sunny; 70°F

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

A few boat anglers were observed in Goldsboro Ferry Bridge Road and HWY 117 Boat Access Areas. There were also a few bank anglers at the Milburnie Dam. Access is still restricted in some areas due to flooding.

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

The intense rain from over a week ago has left water levels high and turbid. American Shad abundances remained high in the Raleigh area this week, but shad were still observed occasionally downstream. Sampling for Striped Bass has been difficult due to high water levels restricting access to lower stretches of the river. However, Striped Bass were found in abundance just below the Milburnie Dam and near the HWY 117 boat launch in Goldsboro. Spawning activity appears to be dwindling as most fish collected were males with some females found in Goldsboro. Any boaters should exercise extreme caution while water levels are high in the Neuse River.