

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Roanoke River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Roanoke River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, and Jen Atherton

Date of sample:

3/30/2017

Area(s) of river sampled, and water temps:

Gaston

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Gaston BAA

Species (spp) information:

- Spp. captured:
American Shad
Striped Bass
Walleye
- Numbers by spp:
American Shad- 21
Striped Bass- 3
Walleye-1
- Size range by spp:
American Shad 16-21 inches
Striped Bass 15-18 inches
Walleye 18 inches
- Max size for spp:
American Shad 21 inches 3 lbs.
Striped Bass 18 inches 2.2 lbs.
Walleye 18 inches 1.5 lbs.
- Sex ratio by spp (Male:Female):
American Shad 6:1
Striped Bass only males collected
- Were the fish tagged?

No fish were tagged but fin clips were taken from American Shad to determine if there were of hatchery origin.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

Discharge was around 3,000 cfs, and water was clear with temperatures around 56°C at the Gaston BAA.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

The weather was overcast with temperatures in the 60s.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

One boat was observed at the Gaston BAA, fishing in the tailrace.

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

Hickory Shad remain on the spawning grounds at Weldon in good numbers, but they should begin to decline over the next couple weeks. Very few Striped Bass have been observed on the spawning grounds at Weldon. They are still staging in the lower river and sound, but they will also soon begin their upstream migration. Kerr Reservoir flow releases are scheduled to slightly increase next week to 3,500 cfs. With added local inflows from the recent rainfall event, this pulse of water could trigger upstream movement of more American Shad and Striped Bass. The warming water temperatures will also cue American Shad to begin spawning.

2017 Roanoke River Creel Survey Information:

Jeremy McCargo, Anadromous Research Coordinator of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), will share some creel survey information collected from different stretches along the Roanoke River during March, April, and May this season. The Roanoke River Creel Survey is designed and administered by the NCWRC through Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funding to estimate angler effort, catch, and harvest of Striped Bass in the Roanoke River Management Area.

March 24–March 30

Upper River: WRC Boating Access Areas (BAA) near Gaston, Weldon, Scotland Neck Boat fishing effort was higher this week at the Weldon BAA. Anglers have reported excellent catches of Hickory Shad at Weldon despite the low water. Bank anglers are also catching good numbers of Hickory Shad at Weldon. Only a few Striped Bass have been reported from the upper river. Most have been small fish. Catfish was the main catch reported at the Gaston BAA.

Lower River: WRC BAAs near Lewiston, Hamilton, Williamston, Jamesville, Plymouth

Fishing effort increased in the lower river this week, especially from Plymouth to Williamston. Anglers had mixed success catching Striped Bass. A few keepers were landed during our creel sessions, but some anglers only reported undersized fish or caught none at all. White Perch were also caught this week in the lower river.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for Roanoke River

The daily bag limit is 10 shad per angler, of which only one may be an American (white) shad on the Roanoke River and its tributaries.

The daily creel limit for Striped Bass is two fish per angler, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches in total length. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in total length shall be retained in the daily creel limit. Only one fish larger than 27 inches in total length may be retained in the daily creel limit.

April 1–June 30 in Inland Waters of Roanoke River upstream of U.S. Highway 258 bridge to Roanoke Rapids Dam, only a single barbless hook or lure with a single barbless hook (or hook with barb bent down) may be used.