

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Roanoke River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Roanoke River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, Jen Atherton, and Jeremy McCargo

Date of sample:

4/10/2017

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

Gaston and Weldon

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Gaston BAA and Weldon BAA

Species (spp) information:

- Spp. captured:
American Shad
Striped Bass
- Numbers by spp:
American Shad- 141
Striped Bass- 19
- Size range by spp:
American Shad 14-21 inches
Striped Bass 10-24 inches
- Max size for spp:
American Shad 21 inches 3.5 lbs.
Striped Bass 24 inches 5 lbs.
- Sex ratio by spp (Male:Female):
American Shad 6.4:1
Striped Bass 12:1
- Were the fish tagged?

Striped Bass were tagged with yellow anchor tags and 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 9,000 cfs, water was clear with temperatures around 60°C at the Gaston BAA and Weldon BAA.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

The weather was warm in the 70's with clear skies.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

Two boats were observed at the Gaston boating access area and about 15 boats were observed at Weldon.

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

Increased flows along with rising water temperatures should trigger Striped bass spawning in the next week or two. Striped bass were not present at Weldon in high numbers this week, but they are starting to arrive on the spawning grounds.

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.

April 7–13

Upper River: WRC Boating Access Areas (BAA) near Gaston, Weldon, Scotland Neck Boat fishing effort increased this week at the Weldon BAA. Anglers are still reporting excellent catches of Hickory Shad at Weldon and navigation. Anglers reported decent fishing at Weldon over the weekend and variable success during the week.

Lower River: WRC BAAs near Lewiston, Hamilton, Williamston, Jamesville, Plymouth Fishing effort has continued to be steady in the lower river at Williamston and Jamesville. Striped bass are being landed at both places, and many anglers are reporting releasing small striped bass while catching a few keeper sized fish.