

TAR RIVER-Coastal Rivers Fisheries Report

SAMPLING INFORMATION:

District 3 Fisheries Biologist, Kirk Rundle, indicates that he plans to begin anadromous fish sampling activities in the Tar River next week. Reports of conditions and fishing activity can be found below.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

River level and other water quality observations:

Streamflow in the Tar River is currently very low due to lack of rainfall.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

The weather has been unseasonably warm, and water temperatures are likely on the rise as well.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

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

Warm weather and conditions indicate 2017 may be an early spawning year for Tar River anadromous fish, but the approaching cold front may slow things down for next week.

2017 Tar 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 Tar-Pamlico 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.

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Shad effort increased significantly over the past week with an increase in catch observed. Falkland was the hotspot with large catches of American and hickory shad. The striped bass bite was also prevalent with many legal fish landed and a handful reported in the slot limit.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Striped bass catch was slow this week due to cold and windy conditions. A few undersized striped bass were reported out of Tranter's Creek.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for Tar River: (Summarize regulations for your river if you think it is necessary)

The daily bag limit is 10 Hickory Shad and American Shad, in combination, per angler.

The daily creel limit for Striped Bass is two fish per angler and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. In the inland and joint waters of the Tar River, no Striped Bass between 22 inches and 27 inches in total length shall be retained in the daily creel limit.