

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Tar River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Tar River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle and Jessica Baumann

Date of sample:

4/11/2017

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

From Swift Creek downstream to Bell's Bridge (Hwy 33) and from the dam at Battle Park downstream approximately 1 mile.

Water temperature was 20 C, or approximately 70 F.

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Bell's Bridge WRC ramp and Battle Park ramp

Species (spp) information:

- Spp. captured:
American Shad and Striped Bass
- Numbers by spp:
20 American Shad near Swift Creek and 6 Striped Bass
27 American Shad in the Battle Park area
- Size range by spp:
American Shad 16-23"; Striped Bass 15-22"
- Max size for spp:
American – Female ~ 4 pounds;
Striped Bass – Male ~ 3 pounds
- Sex ratio by spp:
American Shad: ~ 20% Females; Striped Bass all males
- Were the fish tagged? No

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

At time of sampling, Tar River was rather low for sampling and slightly turbid.

Weather conditions on sampling date

Warm and sunny.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were two boats fishing in the vicinity of Swift Creek and one in the Battle Park area. There were about 4 bank anglers fishing in the Swift Creek area and 8 in the Battle Park area.

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

American Shad numbers should be remaining stable over the next several weeks, while very few Hickory Shad will remain in the upper Tar River. Striped Bass should be increasing in number over the next several weeks. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition. The river was slightly turbid and descending. Levels should be considerably low over the weekend, dependent on any precipitation.

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.

April 5–12

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Battle Park saw good catches of American and hickory last weekend. A few legal striped bass were reported from Bell's Bridge.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Striped bass catch was consistent for another week throughout the Lower Tar/Upper Pamlico River. Legal striped bass were landed out of Dinah's Landing and Washington. Many undersized striped bass were also reported from Dinah's landing, Goose Creek, and Blount's Creek. The trout bite was consistent out of Dinah's Landing.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for Tar River:

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.