

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Tar River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Tar River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle and Jeremy McCargo

Date of sample:

3/16/2017

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 2 miles.

Water temperature was 8 C, or approximately 45 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 Hickory Shad
- Numbers by spp:
12 American Shad near Swift Creek and 14 Hickory Shad;
49 American Shad in the Battle Park area
- Size range by spp:
Americans 16-22"; Hickories 14-20"
- Max size for spp:
American – Female ~ 3.5 pounds;
Hickory – Female ~ 2 pounds
- Sex ratio by spp:
American and Hickory Shad: approximately 50% Females
- Were the fish tagged? No

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

At time of sampling, Tar River was at optimal levels for sampling and moderately turbid.

Weather conditions on sampling date

Cold and clear.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There was only one boat fishing in the vicinity of Swift Creek and none in the Battle Park area. There were about 3 bank anglers fishing 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 increasing over the next several weeks, while Hickory Shad will be decreasing. Shad sampled were returned to the river in good condition. The river was only slightly turbid for the Tar River, moderately high, yet descending. Levels should be close to ideal over the weekend, depending on 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.

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Shad effort slowed over the past week due to cold weather. Battle Park and River Bend Park in Tarboro saw catches of American shad. The striped bass bite was also prevalent with many undersized fish landed.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Striped bass catch was slow this week due to cold and windy conditions. A few undersized and keeper striped bass were reported 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.