

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Tar River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Tar River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle along with retired biologist Bill Collart

Date of sample:

3/30/2017

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

Battle Park boat ramp downstream to the first bridge (Church Street).

Water temperature was 16 C, or approximately 60 F.

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Battle Park ramp

Species (spp) information:

- Spp. captured:
American Shad
- Numbers by spp:
31 American Shad in the Battle Park area.
- Size range by spp:
American Shad 16-23"
- Max size for spp:
American – Female ~ 3.5 pounds
- Sex ratio by spp:
American Shad: ~ 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 low and moderately turbid.

Weather conditions on sampling date

Cool and partly cloudy.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There was only one boat fishing in the Battle Park area. There were about 5 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 continue to increase over the next several weeks. We were not able to look for Hickory Shad in areas of their preferred habitat, such as Swift Creek, due to low water levels, although it is likely their numbers will be decreasing considerably over the next few weeks. No Striped Bass were observed. Shad sampled were returned to the river in good condition. The river was considerably low and descending, which will continue to make access difficult, although rain in the forecast could improve the situation by the weekend.

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.

March 22–28

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Shad effort was persistent over the past week. Battle Park saw a few American shad landed. The weekend saw lots of effort at River Bend in Tarboro and Battle Park in Rocky Mount. However, no shad were observed. Things picked up on Monday at the Hwy 97 Canoe Ramp with American shad being consistently caught.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Striped bass catch was consistent throughout the Lower Tar/Upper Pamlico River. Legal striped bass were landed out of Dinah's Landing, Blount's Creek, Washington, and Tranter's Creek. Many undersized striped bass were also reported.

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.