

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Tar River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Tar River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle and Jessica Baumann

Date of sample:

4/5/2017

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 19 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 Hickory Shad
- Numbers by spp:
16 American Shad near Swift Creek and 1 female Hickory Shad;
40 American Shad in the Battle Park area and no Hickory Shad
- Size range by spp:
American 16-23"; Hickory 16"
- Max size for spp:
American – Female ~ 4 pounds;
Hickory – Female ~ 1 pound
- Sex ratio by spp:
American Shad: ~ 25% 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

Warm and overcast.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were three boats fishing in the vicinity of Swift Creek and one in the Battle Park area. There were about 7 bank anglers fishing in the Swift Creek area and 18 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 Hickory Shad will be decreasing dramatically. No Striped Bass have been observed yet. Shad sampled were returned to the river in good condition. The river was moderately turbid, at medium to high levels and descending. Levels should be close to ideal over the weekend, yet 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.

March 29–April 4

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Due to persistent rains raising water levels over the past week there was no activity observed at Old Sparta, Bell's bridge, or HWY 97 Canoe ramp.

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 as well as one hickory shad.

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.