

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Tar River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Tar River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle, Jessica Baumann, Zoe Nichols

Date of sample:

4/20/2017

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

From approximately 2 miles downstream of Fishing Creek to the Tarboro town boat ramp, an approximate 5-mile stretch.

Water temperature was 22 C, or approximately 75 F.

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Tarboro town boat ramp

Species (spp) information:

- Spp. captured:
American Shad and Striped Bass
- Numbers by spp:
20 American Shad
31 Striped Bass
- Size range by spp:
Americans 16-23”
Striped Bass 15-30”
- Max size for spp:
American – Female ~ 4 pounds
Striped Bass – Female ~ 10 pounds
- Sex ratio by spp:
American Shad: ~ 5% Females
Striped Bass: ~ 5% Females
- Were the fish tagged? Yes. The Striped Bass were tagged with DMF individually numbered anchor tags.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

At time of sampling, Tar River was considerably low and relatively clear.

Weather conditions on sampling date

Warm and sunny.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were approximately 10 boats and 15 bank anglers fishing in the area sampled.

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 Striped Bass should be increasing in number. No Hickory Shad were observed. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition. The river was at low levels and descending. Levels should be dangerously low for boat navigation over the weekend, yet may rise next week given the precipitation forecast.

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 13-21

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Limited shad effort was recorded over the past week. River bend saw a slot striped bass and Dunbar saw a couple of hickory shad. Effort seems to have shifted to typical freshwater species: catfish, sunfish, bass.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

A couple keeper stripers were recorded from Tranter's Creek and Washington. White perch, drum, bluefish, and trout were reported from Dinah's Landing and Quarter Deck. Anglers also reported catching many undersized striped bass from all over the Lower Tar.

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.