

## Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Tar River

### **BASIC INFO:**

We were not able to conduct electrofishing samples this week due to the heavy rainfall and high stream flow experienced in the Tar River Basin. The river is above flood stage in most areas but is expected to reach a level where we can sample sometime next week. We will report our observations when they are available.

### **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 22-26**

#### **Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)**

Limited Shad effort over the past week. A fishing tournament in Tarboro had anglers out in full force targeting striped bass. Effort has shifted to typical freshwater species: catfish, sunfish, bass.

#### **Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)**

Good catches of keeper stripers from Tranter's Creek and Washington. 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. The season for Striped Bass harvest in the Tar River runs from October 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017. Harvest season will reopen October 1, 2017.