

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Tar River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Tar River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle and Jessica Baumann

Date of sample:

5/3/2017

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

From the Dunbar boat ramp downstream approximately 7 miles.

Water temperature was 22 C, or approximately 75 F.

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Dunbar WRC boat ramp.

Species (spp) information:

- Spp. captured:
American Shad and Striped Bass
- Numbers by spp:
31 American Shad;
52 Striped Bass
- Size range by spp:
American shad 16-22"; Striped Bass 17-32"
- Max size for spp:
American shad – Female ~ 3 pounds;
Striped Bass – Female ~ 10 pounds
- Sex ratio by spp:
American Shad: ~ 50% Females; Striped Bass: ~ 50% 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, the Tar River was very high and still flooded downstream of Swift Creek, whereas conditions were moderately high upstream of Swift Creek in the area we sampled. The water was very muddy and turbid.

Weather conditions on sampling date

Warm and sunny.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were no anglers observed.

Comments to anglers about your sampling results, and fishing-related conclusions that can be drawn from your data:

American Shad and Striped Bass are still in the river, but numbers should be starting to decline over the next several weeks. No Hickory Shad were observed. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition. The river level was high but descending. Levels should be okay for navigation by the weekend, depending on additional precipitation, yet caution should be used for any debris remaining from flood conditions.

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)

No report this week due to high water.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

No report this week due to high water.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for Tar River:

The daily bag limit is 10 Hickory Shad and American Shad, in combination, per angler.

Striped Bass harvest season is now closed on the Tar River. 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.