

Cape Fear River Fisheries Report – April 13, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/11/2018	Lock & Dam 1	60	Lock & Dam 1
4/11/2018	Lock & Dam 3	56	Lock & Dam 3

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	1	20	0
Min. Size (in)	21	14	
Max. Size (in)	21	22	
Max. Weight (lb)	3.8	3.2	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	1:0	1.8:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Clint Morgeson

Kyle Rachels

Biologists' Observations:

Water temperatures declined substantially from the previous week, and few American Shad were present at Lock & Dams 1 and 3. Shad were reported by the Lockmaster at Lock & Dam 2. The weather forecast indicates water temperatures will begin climbing again, which will bring additional shad and Striped Bass upstream.

The boat ramp and fishing pier at Lock & Dam 2 are closed due to construction activities. Boat anglers wanting to fish Lock & Dam 2 must use Elwell Ferry BAA, located 24 river miles downstream. Bank anglers can use the fishing pier at Lock & Dam 1.

River level and other water quality observations:

Streamflow at Lock & Dam 1 was 5,000 cfs and rising. The water was fairly clear.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Partly cloudy and 55°F.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

No anglers were observed at Lock & Dam 1. Two boats and one bank angler were present at Lock & Dam 3.

2018 CAPE FEAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

April 2–8

American shad have moved up the river from previous weeks. The best catches of American shad were at Lock & Dam 1, and Lock & Dam 3. Also, there were decent catches of blue catfish at Elwell's Ferry.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for the Cape Fear River

The daily bag limit is 10 shad per angler, of which five (5) may be an American (white) shad on the Cape Fear River and its tributaries.

Striped Bass may not be possessed in the Cape Fear River or its tributaries.

Dr. Drew Cathey of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) shared creel survey information collected from different stretches along the Cape Fear 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 DMF 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.