

Cape Fear River Fisheries Report – May 17, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
5/15/2018	Lock & Dam 1	77	Lock & Dam 1
5/15/2018	Lock & Dam 3	78	Lock & Dam 3

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	7	124	0
Min. Size (in)	8	13	
Max. Size (in)	23	22	
Max. Weight (lb)	4.8	3.7	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	1:1	1.3:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kyle Rachels
Clint Morgeson

Biologists' Observations:

Water levels have fallen and temperatures have risen this week. Striped Bass and American Shad were not abundant at Lock & Dam 1, but large aggregates of American Shad were present at Lock & Dam 3. A few Striped Bass were also collected at Lock & Dam 3. Spawning will be complete in the coming weeks. We anticipate that this will be our final report of the season.

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 1,350 cfs and stable with clear water.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Overcast with some rain and 82°F.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

No anglers were present at Lock & Dam 1. Many boat and bank anglers were pursuing catfish and American Shad at Lock & Dam 3.

2018 CAPE FEAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

May 7–13

A few American shad were caught at Lock & Dam 1 and Lock & Dam 3, but the catch last week was lower than previous weeks. Anglers targeting other species caught blue catfish and bluegill at Lock & Dam 3.

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 Tar 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.