

# Neuse River Fisheries Report – March 22, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
3/19/18	Above Contentnea Creek	54	Grifton BAA
3/20/18	Maple Cyprus	57	Maple Cyprus BAA
3/21/18	Goldsboro	54	Cox Ferry BAA
3/22/18	Kinston	54	HWY 70 Kinston BAA

## SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected Weekly	0	20	48
Min. Size (in)		15	12
Max. Size (in)		22	17
Max. Weight (lb)		3	1
Sex Ratio Weekly (M:F)		1.5:1	0.6:1

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

### **Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:**

Courtney Buckley and Ben Ricks

### **Biologists' Observations:**

Hickory Shad are prevalent in the Neuse River up to Kinston and are building in numbers around Goldsboro. American Shad are beginning to show up on the spawning grounds in Goldsboro. Striped Bass are staging in the lower Neuse River but have yet to start moving upriver in large schools. Flathead Catfish are being observed in the area above Goldsboro. Fish activity should increase in the coming weeks.

### **River level and other water quality observations:**

The water level is rising and water temperatures have cooled off recently.

**Weather conditions on sampling date:**

Windy, Overcast, 30 to 50°F

**Observations of people fishing on the river:**

Shad and Catfish anglers have been observed in the area from Kinston to Maple Cyprus. There have been a few anglers looking for Striped Bass mostly in the lower Neuse River.

**2018 NEUSE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION****March 12–18****Upper Region** (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Fishing effort was down this week possibly due to colder weather. Despite several clear days, few to no anglers were present at the sampling sites. On Sunday, several anglers fishing around Mill Creek landed a few Hickory Shad. Most anglers were coming back with no catch.

**Central Region** (Core Creek to Seven Springs, Goldsboro Area)

Slower first half of the week due to rising cold water. At the end of the week, anglers experienced good catches of Hickory Shad with a few American Shad and Striped Bass mixed in. The best catches occurred in creeks and creek mouths off the river.

**Lower Region** (Spring Garden to New Bern)

Catch was slow this past week. There were some catches of Catfish, Bluegill, Redear, but no Shad or Striped Bass were caught this past week at the sampling sites. The weather was windy during many of the sampling days.

**Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for the Neuse River**

The daily bag limit per angler is 10 Hickory Shad and American Shad in combination, only one of which can be an American Shad.

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 Neuse River, no Striped Bass between 22 inches and 27 inches in total length shall be retained in the daily creel limit. Striped Bass may only be harvested October 1–April 30.

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