

# Neuse River Fisheries Report – April 6, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/2/18	Above Goldsboro	48	Cox Ferry BAA
4/3/18	Above Goldsboro	48	Cox Ferry BAA
4/4/18	Below Seven Springs	63	Seven Springs BAA

## SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected Weekly	6	141	2
Min. Size (in)	18	15	12
Max. Size (in)	24	22	17
Max. Weight (lb)	4	3	1
Sex Ratio Weekly (M:F)	1:1	2:1	2:0

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

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

Courtney Buckley and Ben Ricks

### **Biologists' Observations:**

Hickory Shad are decreasing in the Neuse River up to Goldsboro, and spawning activity is nearly over. American Shad are beginning to show up in good numbers on the spawning grounds in Goldsboro. The best American Shad fishing in the Neuse River is just starting. Striped Bass are staging in the lower Neuse River and are starting to move up river. Fish activity should increase in the coming weeks as water temperatures warm.

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

The water levels are falling and the Neuse River is quite muddy.

**Weather conditions on sampling date:**

Windy, Partly Sunny, 30 to 60°F

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

A few American Shad anglers were seen on the river this week, but little fishing activity was observed.

**2018 NEUSE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION****March 26–April 1****Upper Region** (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

The water level was higher at many sites than previous weeks. Angler participation and catch was low. Some American shad and catfish were reported at Milburnie Park in Raleigh at the beginning of the week.

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

Rising water levels were observed throughout the week. Hickory and American shad catches and angler activity have decreased from previous weeks. A few striped bass and catfish were caught this past week.

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

Anglers were catching a few legal striped bass and hickory shad near Spring Garden despite windy conditions. Some striped bass and a 14-inch spotted seatrout were also caught at Lee's Landing.

**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 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 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.*