

Neuse River Fisheries Report – April 13, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/9/18	Raleigh	56	Anderson Point BAA
4/10/18	Above Goldsboro	55	Cox Ferry BAA
4/11/18	Maple Cyprus	57	Maple Cyprus BAA
4/12/18	Above Goldsboro	57	Cox Ferry BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected Weekly	8	88	0
Min. Size (in)	15	15	
Max. Size (in)	27	22	
Max. Weight (lb)	7	4	
Sex Ratio Weekly (M:F)	1:1	1.4:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Courtney Buckley and Ben Ricks

Biologists' Observations:

Hickory Shad abundances have decreased in the Neuse River, and spawning activity appears to be complete. American Shad have shown up in good numbers on the spawning grounds in Goldsboro and in Raleigh. 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, but few have made it to Goldsboro yet. 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. Water temperatures are rising daily. We do not recommend launching a trailered vessel at Anderson Point in Raleigh at the water level as of April 13, 2018 (~750 cfs from Falls Dam). However, launching canoes and kayaks is possible, and many bank fishing opportunities are available along the upper Neuse River near Raleigh and Knightdale as well.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Windy, Partly Sunny, 50 to 70°F

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Striped Bass, catfish, and crappie anglers were seen on the river this week, but little fishing activity was observed.

2018 NEUSE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

April 2–8

Upper Region (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Anglers reported decent catches of catfish, crappie, and bluegill in Goldsboro. In Raleigh, anglers were catching an even mix of bream, catfish, and largemouth bass. Rainy weather slowed the angler activity towards the end of the week.

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

Rising water levels were observed throughout last 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 reported good catches of striped bass in Lawson's Creek, Trent River, and Spring Garden. Anglers targeting other species saw good catches of largemouth bass, catfish, bream, and black crappie throughout the region.

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.