

# Neuse River Fisheries Report – May 3, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/30/18	Goldsboro	63	Cox Ferry BAA
5/1/18	Smithfield	63	Smithfield BAA
5/2/18	Raleigh	64	Anderson Pt BAA
5/3/18	Smithfield	66	Smithfield BAA

## SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected Weekly	165	76	0
Min. Size (in)	15	15	
Max. Size (in)	32	22	
Max. Weight (lb)	18	4	
Sex Ratio Weekly (M:F)	7:1	2:1	

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

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

Courtney Buckley and Ben Ricks

### **Biologists' Observations:**

American Shad have shown up in good numbers on the spawning grounds in Goldsboro and in Raleigh. Catches in both places have been good this week, and American Shad abundance has increased this week in the Neuse River. American Shad spawning activity is peaking now. Striped Bass spawning activity is peaking now as well, and abundances on the spawning grounds are likely as high as they will be all year.

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

Water temperatures are rising rapidly and the water levels are falling.

**Weather conditions on sampling date:**

Windy, Partly Sunny, 60 to 85°F

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

A few bank and boat anglers were seen this week, but angling activity was low.

**2018 NEUSE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION****April 23-29****Upper Region** (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

The water level remained high throughout the region last week. We observed an increase in anglers targeting shad last weekend. Some striped bass catches were reported by anglers near Milburnie Park.

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

Good catches of striped bass including some fish in the slot and over the slot were observed last week. Other anglers targeting largemouth bass and catfish reported good catches as well. Most anglers targeting striped bass and catfish reported the best luck using cut bait along the bottom.

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

Angler activity was low last week, and no fish were caught. Over the weekend, anglers were catching striped bass, hickory shad, largemouth bass, black crappie, and sunfish on the Trent River in Pollocksville. Anglers fishing in Brice's Creek reported catches of black crappie and largemouth bass.

**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 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.*