

Neuse River Fisheries Report – May 10, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
5/7/2018	Goldsboro	72	Cox Ferry BAA
5/10/2018	Goldsboro	72	Goldsboro BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected Weekly	54	29	0
Min. Size (in)	15	15	
Max. Size (in)	32	22	
Max. Weight (lb)	14	3	
Sex Ratio Weekly (M:F)	10:1	1:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Courtney Buckley and Ben Ricks

Biologists' Observations:

Flows have decreased in the Neuse River causing water levels to drop. Only the Goldsboro area could be sampled this week. American Shad are still present on the spawning grounds in Goldsboro and will likely remain until the end of the month. Striped Bass spawning activity appears to be complete, but there are still good numbers of Striped Bass in the Goldsboro area. These fish should be moving downstream soon.

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, 70 to 85°F

Observations of people fishing on the river:

No anglers were observed this week.

2018 NEUSE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**April 30-May 6****Upper Region** (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Angler activity has increased throughout the region. Anglers released a few striped bass in Goldsboro and Raleigh. Most anglers that were targeting catfish and sunfish experienced good catches.

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

There were increased catches of catfish and sunfish throughout the region. A few striped bass were released in Seven Springs. The water levels have lowered from previous weeks.

Lower Region (Spring Garden to New Bern)

During the week angler activity and catch was low. Over the weekend, anglers were experiencing catches of striped bass, largemouth bass, crappie, and sunfish at Spring Garden.

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.