

TAR RIVER Fisheries Report – March 9, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
3/8/2018	From Swift Creek downstream to just below Bell's Bridge (Hwy 33).	50	Bell's Bridge WRC BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	2	27	41
Min. Size (in)	16	17	14
Max. Size (in)	28	22	20
Max. Weight (lb)	10	4	2
Sex Ratio (M:F)	1:1	1:1	3:1

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle & Katharine DeVilbiss (Environmental Specialist, Dept. of Environmental Quality)

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad numbers should be increasing over the next several weeks, while Hickory Shad will be decreasing. Observing a large Striped Bass this early was surprising yet not without precedence. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition. The river was moderately turbid, at low to medium levels and increasing slightly. Levels should be close to ideal over the weekend, yet dropping rather quickly, depending on precipitation.

River level and other water quality observations:

At time of sampling, Tar River was at optimal levels for sampling and moderately turbid.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Cold and partly cloudy.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

There were a couple of boat trailers in the Bell's Bridge parking lot, yet no boats were encountered in the stretch we sampled.

2018 TAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**Upper Region** (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

No report

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

No Report

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for Tar River

The daily bag limit is 10 Hickory Shad and American Shad, in combination, per angler.

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 Tar 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 Tar-Pamlico 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.