

# Tar River Fisheries Report – April 6, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/5/2018	Rocky Mt Mills Dam to Hwy 64	60	Battle Park

## SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	2	78	2
Min. Size (in)	18	13	16
Max. Size (in)	19	23	18
Max. Weight (lb)	3	4	2
Sex Ratio (M:F)	1:1	2:1	1:1

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

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

Kirk Rundle and Jessica Baumann

### **Biologists' Observations:**

American Shad and Striped Bass numbers should be increasing over the next several weeks, while Hickory Shad will be decreasing. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition.

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

The river was moderately turbid, and flow was low. The river level is continuing to decline and should be rather low over the next few days, depending on any precipitation.

### **Weather conditions on sampling date:**

Sunny and cool.

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

Several bank anglers were observed fishing near Battle Park.

**2018 TAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION****March 26–April 1****Upper Region** (Rocky Mount to Greenville)

Fishing effort has been high due to favorable weather. The best catches of shad were around Battle Park where anglers were catching an even mix of American and Hickory shad. Shad were also caught near Old Sparta. Some anglers caught their limits while others were unsuccessful.

**Lower Region** (Greenville to Washington)

Good catches of striped bass were observed between the railroad trestle on the Pamlico River from Washington to Tranter's Creek. A few striped bass were landed in Bath Creek as well. Angers were reporting the best catches of striped bass in weeks. Some hickory shad were reported near Tranter's Creek.

**Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for the 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 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.*