

Tar River Fisheries Report – April 13, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

| Sample Date | Area Sampled | Water Temp (°F) | Boat Ramp Used |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 4/11/2018 | Rocky Mt Mills Dam to Dunbar | 58 | Battle Park |
| 4/12/2018 | Swift Creek to Fishing Creek | 60 | Bell's Bridge |
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SPECIES INFORMATION

| Species | Striped Bass | American Shad | Hickory Shad |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number Collected | 7 | 153 | 5 |
| Min. Size (in) | 16 | 13 | 15 |
| Max. Size (in) | 20 | 23 | 17 |
| Max. Weight (lb) | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Sex Ratio (M:F) | 1.3:1 | 3:1 | 1.5:1 |

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle and Jessica Baumann

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad are likely near their peak numbers for 2018, while the Hickory Shad spawning run is nearing completion. Striped Bass numbers should continue to increase as water temperatures warm in the coming weeks. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition.

River level and other water quality observations:

The river was moderately turbid, at medium to high levels, and descending. Levels are continuing to decline, yet should be adequate for boating and fishing over the weekend. The upper river could be rather low by early next week unless the rain forecasted for Sunday and Monday maintains suitable levels.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Sunny and cool on April 11 and sunny and warm on April 12.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Several bank anglers were observed fishing near Battle Park, while three fishing boats were also observed near Battle Park. One fishing boat was observed in Fishing Creek.

2018 TAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**April 2–8****Upper Region** (Rocky Mount to Greenville)

The angler activity was lower last week than in previous weeks due to rainy weather. Anglers caught an even mix of American shad and hickory shad in Battle Park last week.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

There were good catches of striped bass throughout the region, particularly in Goose Creek, Blount's Creek, and near Aurora. A few anglers were catching an occasional flounder, black crappie, and largemouth bass. Red drum catches are beginning to pick up as well.

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.