

# Tar River Fisheries Report – April 27, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

| Sample Date | Area Sampled                 | Water Temp (°F) | Boat Ramp Used |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 4/25/2018   | Swift Creek to Bell's Bridge | 63              | Bell's Bridge  |
|             |                              |                 |                |
|             |                              |                 |                |
|             |                              |                 |                |

## SPECIES INFORMATION

| Species          | Striped Bass | American Shad | Hickory Shad |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number Collected | 30           | 8             | 0            |
| Min. Size (in)   | 14           | 16            |              |
| Max. Size (in)   | 30           | 20            |              |
| Max. Weight (lb) | 11           | 2             |              |
| Sex Ratio (M:F)  | 2:1          | 3:1           |              |

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

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

Kirk Rundle and Jessica Baumann

### **Biologists' Observations:**

Striped Bass numbers are starting to pick up and should be increasing considerably over the next few weeks. American Shad should be declining somewhat, while Hickory Shad have almost completed their spawning run in the Tar River. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition.

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

The river was very turbid, at high levels, and increasing. Due to recent rains, the river is continuing to rise and could be dangerously high over the weekend.

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

Overcast and warm.

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

Two fishing boats were observed in the vicinity of Swift Creek, and one bank angler was observed fishing near Bell's Bridge.

**2018 TAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**

**Upper Region** (Rocky Mount to Greenville)

No report this week.

**Lower Region** (Greenville to Washington)

No report this week.

**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.*