

# Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports

## **BASIC INFO:**

### River sampled:

Neuse River

### Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Ben Ricks, Kelsey Lincoln, Bennett Wynne

### Date of sample:

3/8/2016 & 3/9/2016

### Boat ramp(s) used to access river, Area(s) of river sampled, and water temps:

Cox's Ferry BAA, Goldsboro, NC 56°F  
Cowpen Landing BAA; Vanceboro, NC; 60°F

### Species (spp) information:

- Species and number captured:

Goldsboro; Hickory Shad (1) American Shad (53)  
Vanceboro; Hickory Shad (7) Striped Bass (13)

- Size range by spp:

Hickory Shad: 12-16 inches  
American Shad: 16-22 inches  
Striped Bass: 19-25 inches

- Max size for spp:

Hickory Shad: 1 pound  
American Shad: 4 pounds  
Striped Bass: 6 pounds

- Sex ratio by spp:

Hickory Shad: 2.5:1  
American Shad:  
Striped Bass: 2.3:1

- Were the fish tagged? All Striped Bass were tagged.

### **ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:**

#### **River level and other water quality observations (turbidity, etc.):**

The Neuse River is very low with high turbidity.

#### **Weather conditions on sampling date?**

Sunny; Windy; 70°F

#### **Your observations of other people fishing on the river:**

There were numerous anglers out on the river fishing for shad, Largemouth Bass, catfish, and Striped Bass

#### **Comments to anglers about your sampling results, and fishing-related conclusions that can be drawn from your data:**

The Hickory and American shad are either on the spawning grounds or moving towards them. Abundances will likely increase over the coming weeks. Striped Bass are staging in the lower Neuse River and are beginning to move up stream.

#### **2017 Neuse River Creel Survey Information:**

*Dr. Drew Cathey of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) shared some creel survey information collected from different stretches along the Neuse 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.*

#### **Upper Region (Goldsboro to Raleigh)**

The cold front that came through this past week resulted in limited effort on the Upper Neuse. A few catfish were landed but no reports of striped bass or shad. Low water is still an issue for anglers trying to access these areas.

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

The shad run continues to be full swing throughout the entire Middle Neuse. Anglers reported good catches and are frequently limiting out of hickory and American shad. Due to lower than normal water levels, most of the shad were landed in the main stem of the river. Good catches of striped bass were also reported.

#### **Lower Region (Spring Garden to New Bern)**

The cold front that came through this past week resulted in slow fishing on the Lower Neuse. The only catch reported came from Upper Broad Creek with a few undersized striped bass.

