

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Tar River

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Tar River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle and Corey Oakley

Date of sample:

5/9/2017

Area(s) of river sampled, and water temps:

From Swift Creek downstream to Fishing Creek.

Water temperature was 20 C, or approximately 70 F.

Boat ramp(s) used to access river:

Bell's Bridge WRC ramp.

Species (spp) information:

- Spp. captured:
Striped Bass
- Numbers by spp:
67 Striped Bass
- Size range by spp:
Striped Bass 14-28"
- Max size for spp:
Male ~ 8 pounds
- Sex ratio by spp:
20% Females
- Were the fish tagged? Yes. The Striped Bass were tagged with DMF individually numbered anchor tags.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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

At time of sampling, Tar River was moderately high and very turbid.

Weather conditions on sampling date

Cool and sunny.

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were no anglers observed in the area we sampled.

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

American Shad numbers are declining considerably. We observed only a few American Shad and did not collect any. Striped Bass should be declining in number over the next few weeks, as the peak of spawning activity appears to be complete. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition, however, approximately 20 Striped Bass were sent to the Edenton National Fish Hatchery as broodfish to produce fish for stocking back into the Tar River as part of an on-going enhancement project. The river was at relatively high levels, yet descending, in the areas we sampled. Levels should be okay for navigation by the weekend, depending on additional precipitation, yet caution should be used for any debris remaining from flood conditions. Several “new” trees were observed in the river between Swift Creek and Fishing Creek that will be difficult to navigate around if the river drops from moderate to low levels.

2017 Tar 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 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.

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

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.