Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Cape Fear River

**BASIC INFO:**
**River sampled:**
Cape Fear River

**Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:**
Kyle Rachels, Clint Morgeson, Madison Polera

**Date of sample:**
3/14/2017

**Area(s) of river sampled, and water temps:**
East Arcadia, Elizabethtown, Tar Heel

**Boat ramp(s) used to access river:**
Lock & Dam 1, Lock & Dam 2, Lock & Dam 3

**Species (spp) information:**
- **Spp. captured:**
  - American Shad
  - Hickory Shad

- **Numbers by spp:**
  - American Shad 15
  - Hickory Shad 1

- **Size range by spp:**
  - American Shad 16–21 in
  - Hickory Shad 13 in

- **Max size for spp:**
  - American Shad 21 in, 4lbs
  - Hickory Shad 13 in, 1lb

- **Sex ratio by spp:**
  - American Shad 12 males, 3 females
  - Hickory Shad 1 male

- **Were the fish tagged?**
  - No fish were tagged

**ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:**
**River level and other water quality observations (turbidity, etc.):**
The Cape Fear River was 52°F, slightly turbid, and experiencing low streamflow. Streamflow was 2,150 cfs at Lock & Dam 1. This is approximately 30% of normal streamflow.

Weather conditions on sampling date:
45°F, overcast, gusting winds

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:
Fewer anglers observed compared to previous weeks. One boat angler and several bank anglers were observed catching shad at Lock & Dam 1.

Comments to anglers about your sampling results, and fishing-related conclusions that can be drawn from your data:
Temperatures are substantially cooler than previous weeks, however there were still plenty of shad holding below Lock & Dam 1. Peak migrations of American Shad and Striped Bass are still several weeks away.

2017 Cape Fear 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 Cape Fear 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.

The Cape Fear River is still reporting American shad being consistently caught out of lock and dam #1, with a few being landed out of lock #2. Still no shad seen from lock and dam #3.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for Cape Fear River

The daily bag limit is 10 shad per angler, of which five (5) may be an American (white) shad on the Cape Fear River and its tributaries.

Striped Bass may not be possessed in the Cape Fear River or its tributaries.