

Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports - Neuse

BASIC INFO:

River sampled:

Neuse River

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Ben Ricks, Kelsey Lincoln, Bennett Wynne

Date of sample:

4/3/2017-4/5/2017

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

Cox's Ferry BAA, Goldsboro, NC 65°F
Maple Cyprus BAA, Fort Barnwell, NC; 65°F
Contentnea Creek, near Black Creek Road, NC 68°F
Trenton BAA, Trenton, NC, 68°F

Species (spp) information:

- Species and number captured:

Goldsboro: American Shad (33)
Fort Barnwell: Hickory Shad (1), Striped Bass (4)
Black Creek Road: American Shad (36)
Trenton: Hickory Shad (1), American Shad (5)

- Size range by spp:

Hickory Shad: 12-15 inches
American Shad: 13-21 inches
Striped Bass: 19-24 inches

- Max size for spp:

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

- Sex ratio by spp:

Hickory Shad: 2:0
American Shad: 1.6:1
Striped Bass: 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 was slightly higher with increased flows this week, compared to last week. The water was turbid. Water temperatures continued to rise this week.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

Sunny, 75°F

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were a few anglers out on the river fishing for shad and Largemouth Bass.

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

The sustained warm temperatures this week have resulted in shad movement to the spawning grounds where spawning activity has begun. Abundances should continue to increase over the coming weeks. Striped Bass appear to still be staging in the lower Neuse River. While we have not observed Striped Bass in the Goldsboro area we expect to start seeing them soon.

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.

March 29 – April 4

Upper Region (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Rising water levels in the Upper Neuse limited effort over the past week. No shad or striped bass were observed.

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

The middle Neuse saw an overall decrease in shad catches and angler effort. Anglers targeting striped bass around Maple Cypress reported an increase in

numbers of fish including legal fish and some over the slot. Good catches of sunfish and catfish were reported as well.

Lower Region (Spring Garden to New Bern)

Lee's Landing reported many undersized and a few legal stripers from Upper Broad Creek. Lawson's Creek was very productive for striped bass with legal fish and slot fish reported. Stripers were also kept from joint waters of the Neuse River. Good catches of hickory shad were reported as well.