

# Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports – Neuse River

## **BASIC INFO:**

### River sampled:

Neuse River

### Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Ben Ricks, Kelsey Lincoln, Bennett Wynne

### Date of sample:

4/17/2017-4/20/2017

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

Cox's Ferry BAA, Goldsboro, NC 73°F  
Seven Springs BAA, Seven Springs, NC 73°F  
Kinston BAA, Kinston NC, 70°F

### Species (spp) information:

- Species and number captured:

Goldsboro: American Shad (69) Striped Bass (23)  
Seven Springs: Striped Bass (9)  
Kinston: Striped Bass (45)

- Size range by spp:

American Shad: 15-22 inches  
Striped Bass: 14-33 inches

- Max size for spp:

American Shad: 4 pounds  
Striped Bass: 17 pounds

- Sex ratio by spp:

American Shad: 1.4:1  
Striped Bass: 2:1

- Were the fish tagged? 32 Striped Bass were tagged

## **ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:**

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

The Neuse River water level is low and water temperatures are rising.

Weather conditions on sampling date?

Sunny; 75°F

Your observations of other people fishing on the river:

There were several Shad, Catfish, and Striped Bass anglers out on the water.

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

American shad spawning is in full swing and will likely continue for most of this month. Abundances of American Shad were very high in the Goldsboro area this week. Striped Bass are finally starting to show up on the spawning grounds, and abundances should increase over the coming weeks. Fish are slowly moving upstream, but there seem to be decent numbers of Striped Bass in the Kinston area this week. Large catfish are also being observed throughout the Neuse River.

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.*

**April 13–21**

**Upper Region** (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Many people were targeting shad across the Upper Neuse. A couple of American shad were reported from Milburnie. No Shad were reported from the Goldsboro area. Anglers were also targeting bass and catfish.

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

Once again the Middle Neuse saw a diminished shad effort and no shad were reported. Typical spring time fishing in the Middle Neuse region included anglers reporting catches of largemouth bass, sunfish, and catfish.

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

Not a tremendous amount of striper activity to report this week. Undersized stripers were reported from Upper Broad Creek and the Trent River. The Trent River also saw a couple of legal striped bass.