

# Cape Fear River Fisheries Report – 3/23/2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
3/21/2018	Lock & Dam 1	54	Lock & Dam 1
3/21/2018	Lock & Dam 3	54	Lock & Dam 3

## SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	0	51	19
Min. Size (in)		13	12
Max. Size (in)		21	19
Max. Weight (lb)		3.8	1.9
Sex Ratio (M:F)		2.9:1	8.5:1

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

### **Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:**

Clint Morgeson

Kyle Rachels

### **Biologists' Observations:**

Abundance of American and Hickory Shad at Lock & Dam 1 increased substantially from the previous week. American Shad should be making it to Lock & Dams 2 and 3 possibly by this weekend. The Hickory Shad run has likely peaked, and those fish will be leaving the river in the next few weeks. Temperatures will have to increase considerably before Striped Bass begin migrating upstream.

The boat ramp and fishing pier at Lock & Dam 2 are closed due to construction activities. Boat anglers wanting to fish Lock & Dam 2 must use Elwell Ferry BAA, located 24 river miles downstream. Bank anglers can use the fishing pier at Lock & Dam 1.

**River level and other water quality observations:**

Streamflow at Lock & Dam 1 was muddy, 5100 cfs, and rising.

**Weather conditions on sampling date:**

Cold and rainy.

**Observations of people fishing on the river:**

Several boat anglers at Lock & Dam 1 were observed catching American Shad. No anglers were using the pier, and no anglers were observed at Lock & Dam 3.

**2018 CAPE FEAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION****March 12–18**

The best catches of American Shad were at lock and dam one. A few Hickory Shad were caught at this site as well. During the week, fishing effort was down. Some Black Crappie and small Largemouth Bass were caught in the upper reaches of the river around Elwell Ferry. The weather was nice and sunny during the sampling assignments.

**Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for the 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.

*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.*