

Cape Fear River Fisheries Report – March 30, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
3/27/2018	Lock & Dam 1	52	Lock & Dam 1
3/27/2018	Lock & Dam 3	51	Lock & Dam 3

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	1	27	1
Min. Size (in)	13	14	15
Max. Size (in)	13	21	15
Max. Weight (lb)	0.3	4.7	1.0
Sex Ratio (M:F)	Juv	1.3:1	1:0

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Clint Morgeson

Kyle Rachels

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad were again in high abundance at Lock & Dam 1sd and should be at Lock & Dam 1 for the next several weeks. With the high streamflow and warming temperatures, they will be making it to Lock & Dam 3 soon. Only one Hickory Shad was collected, indicating the spawning run is over. Striped Bass may begin appearing at Lock & Dam 1, however the peak migration is still a month away.

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 and high at 7,500 cfs.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Cold and windy.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

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

2018 CAPE FEAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**March 19–25**

Rainy weather and rising waters have slowed down the fishing, especially around the lock and dam sites. No shad were caught during this last week. A few anglers were catching channel and blue catfish.

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.