

Cape Fear River Fisheries Report – April 20, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/18/2018	Lock & Dam 1	65	Lock & Dam 1
4/18/2018	Lock & Dam 3	62	Lock & Dam 3
4/19/2018	Lock & Dam 2	63	Lock & Dam 2

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	26	74	0
Min. Size (in)	17	14	
Max. Size (in)	30	22	
Max. Weight (lb)	9.3	3.6	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	1.9:1	1.3:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Clint Morgeson and Kyle Rachels

Biologists' Observations:

Water temperatures increased substantially from the previous week, spurring the start of the Striped Bass spawning migration. Several Striped Bass were collected from Lock & Dam 1 and sent to Watha State Fish Hatchery to produce fish for stocking later this year. Striped Bass were also observed at Lock & Dams 2 and 3. Large aggregates of American Shad were present at each Lock & Dam.

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 crested and held at 14,000 cfs. The water was very muddy.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Sunny and 80°F.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

A few anglers were present at Lock & Dam 1 and Lock & Dam 3. Shad anglers were having difficulty hooking fish due to the muddy water conditions. Catfish anglers were having great success at Lock & Dam 3.

2018 CAPE FEAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

April 14-20

American shad catches remained strong in Lock & Dam 1 and Lock & Dam 3. Anglers targeting other species caught several blue catfish at Elwell Ferry and some bluegill and white perch at Lock and Dam 1. Windy weather deterred many fishermen.

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.