

# Cape Fear River Fisheries Report – April 6, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/4/2018	Lock & Dam 1	61	Lock & Dam 1
4/4/2018	Lock & Dam 3	63	Lock & Dam 3

## SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	1	70	4
Min. Size (in)	17	16	14
Max. Size (in)	17	22	17
Max. Weight (lb)	1.3	4.1	1.4
Sex Ratio (M:F)	1:0	1.1:1	3:1

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

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

Clint Morgeson

Kyle Rachels

### **Biologists' Observations:**

American Shad were abundant at both Lock & Dams surveyed. A few Striped Bass may begin moving upstream with the warming water.

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 3,000 cfs. The water was fairly clear.

**Weather conditions on sampling date:**

Warm and sunny.

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

A dozen boat anglers at Lock & Dam 1 were observed catching American Shad. One boat angler and several bank anglers were present at Lock & Dam 3.

**2018 CAPE FEAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION****March 26–April 1**

The best catches of American shad were at Lock and Dam 1 where many anglers were catching their daily limits. Anglers were reporting that the American shad seem to be arriving late in the Cape Fear this year. Several people were fishing at Lock and Dam 3 with no success. The water level has lowered to its normal level this past week.

**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 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 DMF 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.*