

Neuse River Fisheries Report – April 20, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/16/18	Goldsboro	66	Cox Ferry BAA & Goldsboro BAA
4/17/18	Raleigh & Goldsboro	57, 63	Anderson Pt BAA & Cox Ferry BAA
4/18/18	Smithfield & Goldsboro	59, 63	Smithfield BAA & Stevens Mill
4/19/18	Goldsboro	63	Goldsboro BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected Weekly	32	76	0
Min. Size (in)	15	15	
Max. Size (in)	29	22	
Max. Weight (lb)	10	4	
Sex Ratio Weekly (M:F)	5.2:1	1.7:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling: Courtney Buckley and Ben Ricks

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad have shown up in good numbers on the spawning grounds in Goldsboro and Raleigh, although catches in Raleigh were a little lower this week. The best American Shad fishing in the Neuse River will occur over the next few weeks. Striped Bass are starting to move upriver, and a few have made it to Goldsboro and further upstream. Fish activity should increase in the coming weeks as water temperatures warm.

River level and other water quality observations:

The water levels have risen due recent rains. Water temperatures have cooled off a bit due to the increased flows but should continue to rise next week.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Windy, Partly Sunny, 50 to 70°F

Observations of people fishing on the river:

3 Striped Bass anglers were seen on the river this week.

2018 NEUSE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

April 14-20

Upper Region (Goldsboro to Raleigh)

Overall catch and fishing effort was low this past week. A few bream were caught in Raleigh, and some catfish were caught outside of Goldsboro. There has been an increase in anglers targeting striped bass, but no one we intercepted successfully caught any. Also, the amount of shad anglers has been steadily declining.

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

There was a decrease in shad anglers, but reports of a few shad still being landed were documented. Anglers targeting striped bass picked up a few keepers. The rest of fishing was typical springtime fishing activity where anglers were targeting largemouth bass, catfish, and sunfish. Wind and rainy weather last week resulted in low fishing activity.

Lower Region (Spring Garden to New Bern)

Anglers experienced good catches of spotted seatrout, and a few striped bass were caught near Lee's Landing. In the Trent River, one hickory shad was caught. Anglers targeting other species in the Trent River were catching black crappie, largemouth bass, and the largest catch of white perch we've seen in the area.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for the Neuse River

The daily bag limit per angler is 10 Hickory Shad and American Shad in combination, only one of which can be an American Shad.

The daily creel limit for Striped Bass is two fish per angler, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. In the inland and joint waters of the Neuse River, no Striped Bass between 22 inches and 27 inches in total length shall be retained in the daily creel limit. Striped Bass may only be harvested October 1–April 30.

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.