

Tar River Fisheries Report – April 20, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/18/2018	Bell's Bridge to Shiloh Mills	60	Bell's Bridge

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	14	7	0
Min. Size (in)	17	16	
Max. Size (in)	24	20	
Max. Weight (lb)	5	2	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	2.5:1	2.5:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle and Jessica Baumann

Biologists' Observations:

Striped Bass numbers should be increasing considerably over the next few weeks. American Shad should be declining somewhat, while Hickory Shad have almost completed their spawning run in the Tar River. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition.

River level and other water quality observations:

The river was very turbid, at high levels and increasing. Levels are continuing to climb and are likely to be dangerously high over the weekend.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Sunny and warm.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Two fishing boats were observed in the vicinity of Fishing Creek.

2018 TAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

April 14-20

Upper Region (Rocky Mount to Greenville)

Fishing effort and catches were low last week primarily due to rain. The only recorded catches of American shad and hickory shad were in Battle Park.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Most anglers were targeting and catching bream, largemouth bass, and black crappie. A few striped bass were caught in Blount's Creek. Red drum catches are continuing to pick up. However, most of the drum have been undersized. Most anglers this past week were fishing in creeks due to high winds along the Pamlico River.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for the Tar River

The daily bag limit is 10 Hickory Shad and American Shad, in combination, per angler.

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 Tar 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 Tar 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.

PLEASE INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE PHOTO FROM YOUR SAMPLING WORK FOR THIS WEEK. (Please send the photo as a separate jpg from this Word Doc, and include caption information below as well as in the email. We will imbed the photo and caption after formatting the Word Doc, but prior to converting it into a PDF.)

PHOTO CAPTION

High water at Battle Park on April 18.