

Tar River Fisheries Report – May 3, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/30/2018	Swift Creek to Fishing Creek	68	Bell's Bridge
5/2/2018	Dunbar bridge to just above Swift Creek	70	Dunbar
5/3/2018	Just above Swift Creek to just below Bell's Bridge	70	Bell's Bridge

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	77	21	0
Min. Size (in)	14	16	
Max. Size (in)	28	23	
Max. Weight (lb)	9	4	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	3.5:1	1.6:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle, Rick Bradford, and Jessica Baumann

Biologists' Observations:

Striped Bass numbers are starting to pick up and 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 earlier in the week, whereas the river is descending considerably now and should be rather low over the weekend, depending upon any precipitation.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Warm and sunny.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Several fishing boats were observed near Bell's Bridge and Fishing Creek on Monday. A couple of fishing boats were observed near Dunbar on Wednesday, with one fishing boat observed near Swift Creek on Thursday. Several bank anglers were observed fishing near Bell's Bridge on Monday, and two bank anglers were observed fishing near the Dunbar bridge on Wednesday. One bank angler was observed fishing near Bell's Bridge on Thursday. All bank anglers appeared to be fishing for Striped Bass or catfish.

2018 TAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**April 23-29****Upper Region** (Rocky Mount to Greenville)

Fishing effort has increased from previous weeks. Catches of shad were observed only at Battle Park last week. Anglers were also catching striped bass and catfish at River Bend Park in Tarboro.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Anglers experienced good catches of striped bass last weekend. The best catches of striped bass were in Tranter's Creek and surrounding areas. Anglers targeting other species saw good catches of largemouth bass and some catches of white perch, catfish, and sunfish.

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 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 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.