

# Tar River Fisheries Report – May 15, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
5/15/2018	Fishing Creek to Tarboro Town Ramp	80	Tarboro Town Ramp

## SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	10	7	0
Min. Size (in)	15	15	
Max. Size (in)	26	21	
Max. Weight (lb)	7	3	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	9:1	2.5:1	

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

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

Kirk Rundle, Cara Kowalchyk, and Jessica Baumann

### **Biologists' Observations:**

Striped Bass numbers on the upper Tar River declined considerably this week. American Shad were declining, yet numbers appear to have increased slightly this week with fish that look comparatively robust. This "May run" of American Shad is common on the Tar River. However, with water temperatures warming into the 80s, the majority of anadromous spawning appears to be complete in the Tar River for spring 2018. We may sample at least one more week this spring, but this will be our final report of the season.

### **River level and other water quality observations:**

The river was moderately turbid, at low levels, and descending. The river level should be considerably higher by the weekend if forecasted rain materializes this week.

**Weather conditions on sampling date:**

Warm and sunny.

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

One boat angler and two bank anglers were observed in the areas we sampled.

**2018 TAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION****May 7–13****Upper Region** (Rocky Mount to Greenville)

Striped bass along with some catfish were caught at River Bend Park last week. Anglers also caught largemouth bass in Battle Park. We did not observe any shad being caught in the upper Tar region last week.

**Lower Region** (Greenville to Washington)

Anglers landed a couple of legal sized flounder from Durham Creek and around Bath. Striped bass were still being caught from the railroad trestle in Washington to Tranter's Creek. Anglers targeting other species caught white perch, largemouth bass, and several large 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.*