

Tar River Fisheries Report – March 29, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

| Sample Date | Area Sampled | Water Temp (°F) | Boat Ramp Used |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 3/26/2018 | Swift Creek to Bell's Bridge | 50 | WRC Bell's Bridge |
| 3/26/2018 | Rocky Mt Mills Dam to Hwy 64 | 50 | Battle Park |
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SPECIES INFORMATION

| Species | Striped Bass | American Shad | Hickory Shad |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number Collected | 1 | 30 | 26 |
| Min. Size (in) | | 15 | 13 |
| Max. Size (in) | 25 | 21 | 20 |
| Max. Weight (lb) | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| Sex Ratio (M:F) | Female | 4 | 0.18 |

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Kirk Rundle and Jessica Baumann

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad and Striped Bass numbers should be increasing over the next several weeks. Hickory Shad are still maintaining good numbers with continued colder water temperatures, yet should be decreasing overall by early April. All fish sampled were returned to the river in good condition.

River level and other water quality observations:

The river was very turbid, at relatively high levels and increasing. Levels are continuing to rise near Tarboro, while beginning to decline near Rocky Mount. This trend should continue over the next few days, depending upon any additional precipitation before the weekend.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Clear and cold.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Two bank anglers were observed fishing near Bell's Bridge. Several bank anglers and 2 boat anglers were observed fishing near Battle Park.

2018 TAR RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

March 19–25

Upper Region (Rocky Mount to Greenville)

Anglers were experiencing more success with shad fishing this week than prior weeks. Hickory shad catch was best around the Rocky Mount wastewater discharge and Bell's Bridge. Some American shad were caught at Battle Park in Rocky Mount as well.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Several anglers were targeting striped bass around Washington and near Goose Creek but were unsuccessful. Some anglers were catching largemouth bass but not much else. Windy and rainy conditions resulted in low fishing effort and success.

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.