

Roanoke River Fisheries Report – March 29, 2019

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
3/27/2019	Hwy 48 bridge to powerlines downstream of paper mill	51	Gaston BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	0	121	13
Min. Size (in)		15	13
Max. Size (in)		21	17
Max. Weight (lb)		3.1	1.5
Sex Ratio (M:F)		9:1	1.6:1

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, and Jeremy McCargo

Biologists' Observations:

During our first American Shad sample of the spring spawning season, we found good numbers of American Shad on the spawning grounds of the upper Roanoke River. The majority was males, but we collected a few large females. We also collected a fair number of Hickory Shad in the mix. We saw a few Striped Bass during our shad sample, but we did not collect data from them. We will begin our Striped Bass electrofishing sampling at Weldon in early April.

River level and other water quality observations:

Flows have fallen considerably, and discharge was around 8,500 cfs. The water was extremely turbid due to the high inflows into the reservoirs upstream. Recent rainfall in the upper basin will cause flows to increase again for the coming week.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Sunny, cool, and windy.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

There were a few people fishing from the bank, but we did not see anyone fishing from a boat.

2018 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

March 23–March 29

Upper River (Roanoke Rapids Dam to Scotland Neck)

Fishing effort has increased in the upper Roanoke during this week. Anglers targeting Hickory Shad reported decent catches in the Weldon area. Bank anglers appeared to be having good luck around the Weldon boat ramp as well. A couple Striped Bass were landed at Edwards Ferry over the weekend.

Lower Region (Scotland Neck to Plymouth)

Striped Bass angling effort was spread out from Williamston to Plymouth during the week. Anglers reported successful catches at Jamesville and at the Highway 45 ramp in Plymouth.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for the Roanoke River

The daily creel 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. No Striped Bass between 22 inches and 27 inches in total length may be possessed at any time, and only one fish greater than 27 inches may be included in the daily creel limit of two fish. Striped Bass may only be harvested March 1–April 30 unless the season is extended or closed early by proclamation.

Jeremy McCargo, Anadromous Research Coordinator of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), will share some creel survey information collected from different stretches along the Roanoke River during March, April, and May this season. The Roanoke River Creel Survey is designed and administered by the NCWRC through Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funding to estimate angler effort, catch, and harvest of Striped Bass in the Roanoke River Management Area.