

Roanoke River Fisheries Report – March 30, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
3/29/2018	Hwy 48 bridge to powerlines	50	Gaston BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected		71	2
Min. Size (in)		15	15
Max. Size (in)		21	16
Max. Weight (lb)		4.4	
Sex Ratio (M:F)		6:1	males

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Chris Smith and Jeremy McCargo

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad are still migrating to the spawning grounds of the Roanoke River. Numbers will be increasing as water temperatures continue to rise. Hickory Shad are near their peak and will soon be heading back downstream. Striped Bass have yet to arrive on the spawning grounds near Weldon but should be continuing their spawning run in the weeks to come. We will begin sampling for stripers in April.

River level and other water quality observations:

The river level was 6,600 cfs at the time of sampling and was higher than last week. Increased flows should provide more habitat for spawning fish and will cue Striped Bass and American Shad to move upstream. The water was cold and clear near Gaston.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

Warm and breezy.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

One boat was fishing in the morning, and four anglers fishing from the bank near midday.

2018 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**March 24–30****Upper River** (Roanoke Rapids Dam to Scotland Neck)

Anglers continue to have success fishing for Hickory Shad near Weldon. Rising water this week may have moved the fish around a bit, but creel clerks indicate angling parties were catching big numbers of Hickory Shad at Weldon. Striped Bass have yet to make it upriver.

Lower Region (Scotland Neck to Plymouth)

Creel clerks continue to report scattered success for Striped Bass anglers in the lower Roanoke River. Anglers have reported catching small stripers in Jamesville and Williamston, but keepers have been rare so far this season.

Shad and Striped Bass Regulations for the Roanoke River

The daily bag 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), shared creel survey information collected from different stretches along the Roanoke River. 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.