

# Roanoke River Fisheries Report – April 5, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/2/2018	Hwy 48 bridge to powerlines	50	Gaston BAA
4/3/2018	Hwy 48 bridge to powerlines	53	Gaston BAA
4/5/2018	Hwy 48 bridge to powerlines	53	Gaston BAA
4/6/2018	Hwy 48 bridge to powerlines	52	Gaston BAA

## SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected		300	
Min. Size (in)			
Max. Size (in)			
Max. Weight (lb)			
Sex Ratio (M:F)			

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

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

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, and Jeremy McCargo

### **Biologists' Observations:**

We collected broodfish for the Roanoke River American Shad restoration project this week. We sent 300 American Shad to the Commission's Watha State Fish Hatchery and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Edenton National Fish Hatchery where they will spawn millions of eggs during the next two months. The resulting fry will be stocked back into the Roanoke River at Weldon and upstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam. American Shad were relatively abundant on the spawning grounds this week, and more are still migrating upriver. Hickory Shad numbers are decreasing in the upper river as their spawning season comes to an end. Striped Bass are still migrating upriver as well. Most reports indicate they are not yet on the spawning grounds near Weldon in any significant numbers; however, we will have a better idea of the status of the Striped Bass spawning run when we begin weekly Striped Bass electrofishing surveys at Weldon next week.

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

The river level was approximately 9,000 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:**

We observed several boats trying their luck at Gaston this week. One boat reported decent shad catches on Monday. Several bank anglers were also observed throughout the week.

**2018 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION****March 31–April 6****Upper River** (Roanoke Rapids Dam to Scotland Neck)

Anglers had some success fishing for Hickory Shad near Weldon Easter weekend, but shad fishing seems to be slowing down upriver throughout this week. A few small Striped Bass were reported from Weldon over the weekend as well.

**Lower Region** (Scotland Neck to Plymouth)

Striped Bass fishing effort was high on Saturday before Easter in the lower river, but anglers told our creel clerks that the fishing was pretty slow. Effort was lighter during the week. We documented a few keeper-sized Striped Bass in Jamesville over the weekend and at Williamston on Tuesday. Catch and release of small fish was also reported.

**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.*