

Roanoke River Fisheries Report – April 13, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/9/2018	Weldon	54	Weldon BAA
4/12/2018	Hwy 48 bridge	56	Gaston BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	25	95	
Min. Size (in)	13	15	
Max. Size (in)	23	22	
Max. Weight (lb)	5.7	3.7	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	5:1	4:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, and Jeremy McCargo

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad are arriving in good numbers on the spawning grounds, near the Gaston Boating Access Area. Most fish are staying around the bridge and middle of the river, while some larger individuals were observed below the paper plant bridge. A handful of Striped Bass was observed near the Gaston Boating Access Area as well; however, anglers reported fewer catches at that location. Striped Bass are beginning to show up around the Weldon area, and with warming water temperatures and this week's increased flows, more Striped Bass should be congregating this weekend into the next few weeks. We didn't catch any big Striped Bass this week, and most were between 16-20 inches. Hickory Shad were still abundant around the Weldon area this week.

River level and other water quality observations:

Flows on the upper Roanoke were moderate, approximately 11,500-12,000 cfs. Check the links on this page for current and projected water levels.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

During sampling, air temperatures were around 60-65 degrees F with clear skies and windy conditions.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

One fisherman was observed at the Weldon Boating Access Area on Monday. Three fishing parties were observed at the Gaston Boating Access Area on Thursday, one party was fishing for catfish, one party caught one Striped Bass, and the third party caught their limit of shad.

2018 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

April 7–13

Upper River (Roanoke Rapids Dam to Scotland Neck)

Rain last Saturday slowed the fishing effort, but a few keeper Striped Bass were reported from Weldon on Sunday. Anglers reported decent Striped Bass catches during the week, but fishing is still a bit slow. Although electrofishing surveys indicate plenty of Hickory Shad are still around Weldon, very few anglers fished for shad this week.

Lower Region (Scotland Neck to Plymouth)

Striped Bass are still scattered throughout the lower river. A few keepers were harvested at Jamesville and Williamston this week, and anglers reported catching some small fish as well.

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.