

Roanoke River Fisheries Report – April 20, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/16/2018	Wedlon	57	Weldon BAA
4/20/2018	Hwy 48 bridge	59	Gaston BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	61	59	
Min. Size (in)	13	15	
Max. Size (in)	24	21	
Max. Weight (lb)	6.7	3	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	29.5	2.7:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, and Jeremy McCargo

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad are spawning near the Gaston Boating Access Area, most fish are sticking close to the Hwy. 48 bridge and some activity was observed along the shoreline; we also collected 6 Striped Bass along the shoreline. We started seeing Striped Bass arriving in pulses in the Weldon area. Anglers reported catching some keepers but catching a good number of short fish. With warming temperatures and the recent flood pulse flows from Roanoke Rapids dam, Striped Bass should be pulled up to the Weldon area over the weekend. Still no big Striped Bass caught at Weldon, largest one was around 24 inches with most in the 15-20 inch range. Some Hickory Shad were observed but much fewer than last week. We will be sampling at Weldon on Monday the 23rd and Gaston on Thursday the 26th.

River level and other water quality observations:

Flows on the upper Roanoke were low at the beginning of the week and increased moderately by the end of the week, approximately 6,000-10,000 cfs. Check the links on this page for current water levels.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

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

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Two fishing parties were observed near the Gaston BAA, one was in the tail race while another group of kayakers floated down to Weldon. Anglers were fishing below big rock and near the s-curves; few anglers were observed fishing around the rapids and in little river.

2018 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

4/30/2018

Upper River: Striped Bass catches have increased at Weldon and Edwards Ferry Boating Access Areas over the last week. Most anglers are finding a few keeper-sized Striped Bass among many short fish.

Lower River: Striped Bass catch has been scattered throughout the lower river over the last week. A few keepers and small fish were reported at Jamesville and Williamston. At Hamilton, a few anglers reported good catches of Striped Bass but didn't land any keepers.

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.