

Roanoke River Fisheries Report – April 26, 2019

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/22/2019	Weldon	64	Weldon BAA
4/25/2019	Roanoke River near Hwy 48	65	Gaston BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	386	89	
Min. Size (in)	11	16	
Max. Size (in)	26	24	
Max. Weight (lb)	10	4	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	4.5:1	2.7:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, and Jeremy McCargo

Biologists' Observations:

Our electrofishing catch of Striped Bass increased from last week. Striped Bass are now abundant on the spawning grounds near Weldon. Water temperature has risen steadily since last week. The majority of the Striped Bass collected this week were in the Weldon area; however, we still saw a good number of fish during the American Shad sample near the Hwy 48 bridge in Gaston. American Shad catches in our electrofishing sample were lower than last week. Very few Hickory Shad were seen in the Weldon area indicating their spawning run is near completion.

River level and other water quality observations:

Flow from Roanoke Rapids Dam was moderately high (around 16,000 cfs) on both sample days. Water temperatures were in the mid 60s.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

During sampling, air temperatures were in the high 70s to mid-80s.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Fishing effort was heavy at Weldon on Monday. Numerous boats were observed catching Striped Bass in all areas of the river from the Gap to downstream of Big Rock. About 10 boats were observed at Gaston on Thursday. Multiple bank anglers were also fishing around both boating access areas, but fishing appeared to be slow.

2019 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

April 19–26

Upper River (Roanoke Rapids Dam to Scotland Neck)

Striped Bass fishing effort was high in the upper Roanoke this week. Our creel clerks saw some busy days with striper anglers fishing at Weldon and Edwards Ferry boat ramps. Excellent catches of Striped Bass were reported. There were no reports of shad catches.

Lower Region (Scotland Neck to Plymouth)

Striped Bass fishing effort in the lower river remained steady during the last week. Good catches of Striped Bass were reported at Williamston and Hamilton.

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.

From April 1–June 30 in Inland Waters of Roanoke River upstream of U.S. Highway 258 bridge, only a single barbless hook or lure with a single barbless hook (or hook with barb bent down) may be used.

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.

