

# Roanoke River Fisheries Report – April 27, 2018

## SAMPLING INFORMATION

| Sample Date | Area Sampled  | Water Temp (°F) | Boat Ramp Used |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 4/23/2018   | Wedlon        | 58              | Weldon BAA     |
| 4/26/2018   | Hwy 48 bridge | 60              | Gaston BAA     |
|             |               |                 |                |
|             |               |                 |                |
|             |               |                 |                |

## SPECIES INFORMATION

| Species          | Striped Bass | American Shad | Hickory Shad |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number Collected | 178          | 83            |              |
| Min. Size (in)   | 12           | 15            |              |
| Max. Size (in)   | 28           | 21            |              |
| Max. Weight (lb) | 10           | 3             |              |
| Sex Ratio (M:F)  | 15:1         | 3.6:1         |              |

## BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

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

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, and Jeremy McCargo

### **Biologists' Observations:**

With the recent flood pulse from Roanoke Rapids dam, Striped Bass have begun to move into the Weldon area, water temperatures are still low and spawning has not occurred yet. A few fish above the slot limit were collected on Monday but most were males. Sampling was slow with only a few pods of fish collected, primarily above the rapids. With flows increasing again this weekend fish will likely be spread-out. This flood pulse should bring the remaining pulse of Striped Bass up to the Weldon area in the coming week, while keeping water temperatures below optimal spawning temp. The biggest Striped Bass observed this past week was 28 inches and 10 pounds.

American Shad were observed spawning near the Gaston Boating Access Area, most fish were around the Hwy 48 bridge and along the upper shorelines. This week we collected 22 Striped Bass from the Gaston area weighing between 1 and 5 pounds.

We will be sampling at Weldon on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of April and Gaston on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May.

**\*\* Season Extension\*\*** The NCWRC declares that the season for harvesting Striped Bass by hook-and-line shall be open in the area of the Roanoke River from Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to the mouth of the river at Albemarle Sound, including the Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost Rivers, on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 from 12:00 AM through 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 6, 2018.

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

Flows on the upper Roanoke were moderate, approximately 9,500 cfs. Check the links on this page for current water levels. Flows are expected to increase Saturday to 20,000 cfs.

**Weather conditions on sampling date:**

During sampling air temperatures were around 65-72 degrees F, cloudy and windy.

**Observations of people fishing on the river:**

Four fishing parties were observed near the Gaston BAA, one was in the tail race while the other groups were around the HWY 48 bridge and paper plant. On Monday at Weldon, anglers were spread out, most were downstream below big rock in the morning and then some moved into little river and below the rapids.

**2018 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**

April 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>:

**Upper river:** Striped Bass have arrived at Weldon with good catches of keeper length fish reported this week. Boat fishing effort was steady and high this week at the Weldon BAA. Anglers reported good catches of Striped Bass in the upper river this week, with many anglers catching their limit.

**Lower River:** Fishing effort in the lower river has declined, some anglers are catching scattered Striped Bass but are not reporting catching many keeper sized fish.

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**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.*