

Roanoke River Fisheries Report – May 4, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
4/30/2018	Weldon	60	Weldon BAA
5/3/2018	Hwy 48 bridge	62	Gaston BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	362	52	
Min. Size (in)	12	15	
Max. Size (in)	32	20	
Max. Weight (lb)	15	3	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	10:1	4.2:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith, and Jeremy McCargo

Biologists' Observations:

American Shad are continuing to spawn near the Gaston Boating Access Area; most activity was observed along the shoreline. At Gaston, we also collected 33 Striped Bass along the shoreline. Striped Bass numbers have increased at Weldon. Water temperatures continue to warm and spawning is likely going to begin this week. We will be sampling again at Weldon on Monday the 7th and Gaston on Wednesday the 9th.

River level and other water quality observations:

Flows on the upper Roanoke were high all week, approximately 15,000-20,000cfs. Check the links on this page for current water levels.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

During sampling, air temperatures were around 75-85 degrees F. Skies were clear, and windy conditions persisted.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Three fishing parties were observed near the Gaston BAA. At Weldon, numerous anglers were having luck upstream of the boat ramp. Some anglers were also fishing downstream of the boat ramp.

2018 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION

April 28-May 4

Upper River (Roanoke Rapids Dam to Scotland Neck)

Despite high water levels, anglers fishing at Weldon last weekend reported excellent catches of Striped Bass. Many keepers were landed, and creel clerks also recorded reports of small and slot-size fish as well. Fishing has slowed some during this week, but anglers are still catching striped bass.

Lower Region (Scotland Neck to Plymouth)

Striped Bass are still present throughout the lower river. Catches at Jamesville, Williamston, and Hamilton have not been as good as Weldon, but anglers are still finding some small fish as well as a few keepers.

**** Season Extension** Anglers are reminded the season for harvesting Striped Bass 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 will CLOSE at 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 6, 2018.**

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.