

Roanoke River Fisheries Report – May 17, 2018

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sample Date	Area Sampled	Water Temp (°F)	Boat Ramp Used
5/14/2018	Weldon BAA to powerlines	70	Weldon BAA
5/15/2018	Hwy 48 bridge to powerlines	72	Gaston BAA

SPECIES INFORMATION

Species	Striped Bass	American Shad	Hickory Shad
Number Collected	275	35	
Min. Size (in)	10	14	
Max. Size (in)	27	20	
Max. Weight (lb)	9	2	
Sex Ratio (M:F)	8:1	2:1	

BIOLOGISTS' OBSERVATIONS & RIVER CONDITIONS

Fisheries Biologists conducting sampling:

Katy Potoka, Chris Smith. and Jeremy McCargo

Biologists' Observations:

Striped Bass began spawning last week, as water temperatures remained in the 70s. Spawning activity is expected to continue this week. Anglers were catching good numbers of Striped Bass between big rock and the Weldon Boating Access Area.

River level and other water quality observations:

Flows on the upper Roanoke were approximately 6,000 cfs. Check links on this page for current water levels.

Weather conditions on sampling date:

During sampling, air temperatures were approximately 90 degrees F, sunny and windy.

Observations of people fishing on the river:

Most fishing parties were around big rock and the rapids near the boat ramp; however, a few angling parties were successful downstream near the powerlines.

2018 ROANOKE RIVER CREEL SURVEY INFORMATION**May 12-18**

We are only operating our creel survey at the Weldon Boating Access Area during the closed-harvest season in May. Anglers in Weldon reported excellent catches of Striped Bass last weekend and during the early part of this week. Anglers also reported seeing numerous “rock fights” on Monday and Tuesday, indicating Striped Bass spawning activity. Despite the rain forecast on Thursday, the few anglers that ventured out caught good numbers of Striped Bass. Live bait is still working, but fly fishermen are also having success. Anglers are again reminded to minimize handling of striped bass during the catch and release season. Stress and injury to the fish can be reduced by using barbless hooks, keeping the fish in the water during release, and using dehooking tools when necessary.

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.