2013 SHAD AND STRIPER FISHING REPORT

COASTAL RIVERS

Week of March 25 – March 31

NEUSE RIVER

Upper Region (Raleigh to Smithfield)

Fishing Activity: Anglers at Milburnie Damreported catching both American (white) and hickory shad. Catches increased toward the end of the week as water temperatures climbed to near 54 degrees. Other anglers in this region also reported catches of both hickory and American shad.

Central Region (Maple Cyprus to Seven Springs, Goldsboro Area)

Fishing Activity*:* Anglers reported fair catches of both hickory and white shad. Most of the shad fishermen in this region were fishing Pitchkette and Contentnea creeks. Anglers reported catching limits of shad while trying to catch bait for striped bass fishing. Striped bass catches improved, but most of the stripers were "slot fish" and had to be discarded.

Lower Region (Turkey Quarter to New Bern)

Fishing Activity: Anglers reported catches of speckled trout in the Trent River and good catches of striped bass from the New Bern area. Several anglers reported targeting and catching red drum around the mouths of the creeks near and around New Bern. One angler reported catching and releasing more than 50 red drum. The majority of these fish were undersized.

TAR /PAMLICO RIVER

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Fishing Activity: Shad fishing slowed down a little. Anglers reported that the water level was still low causing them to stay "hung up" half of the time.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Fishing Activity: Anglers again reported good catches of stripers in the Tar River. The area around Washington produced some very nice fish. Most of the striped bass landed were discarded. The discards came from both undersized and "slot fish" releases. The striper bite continued to be best on falling water. Catches of speckled trout were reported from Blounts and Broad creeks. Anglers have caught fish there all winter. Best days were when it warms up and the sun comes out.

CAPE FEAR

Fishing Activity: The Cape Fear River continued to be the best white shad fishing location in North Carolina. Both lock and dams produced fish but Lock and Dam No. 1 near Riegelwood produced the most. A few fish were landed at the third lock and dam. One angler fishing Lock and Dam No. 1 reported releasing 50 to 60 white shad during his fishing trip.