



Interest In Shad Fishing Showing Great Increase In North Carolina

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Interest in shad fishing is growing in North Carolina. Perhaps the principal reason is the dramatic come-back of angling on the Cape Fear River.

About 1915, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers built three locks on the Cape Fear, blocking shad from their spring spawning run to rapids at the fall line. When the locks closed, shad fishing on the Cape Fear ended. It did not resume for 50 years.

Then, in 1962, state and federal agencies began to work together in a program to open the lower of the three locks during spawning periods, allowing shad access once again to water suitable for egg-

laying. Over a six-year period, the project was expanded to include all three locks. Since 1967, the entire river has been open for the shad migration.

During the peak Cape Fear spawning run last April, anglers lined the locks almost shoulder-to-shoulder and small boat fishermen anchored gunwale-to-gunwale in the river. The wildlife commission estimates approximately 20,000 shad passed through the locks. Hardly anyone failed to catch fish once the migration was under way.

Shad are free spawners and require turbulent water to keep their eggs suspended and free of silt. The Cape Fear is not the only Tar Heel river providing this condition, although it is the principal

one. The Black River, a tributary of the Cape Fear, has good fishing between N. C. 53 bridge and N. C. 41 bridge near Tomahawk.

The North East Cape Fear, another Cape Fear tributary, provides angling between N. C. 53 bridge and Tin City. Inside the city limits of Rocky Mount on a stretch of the Tar River there is good late-season fishing. The favored spot is behind Bud Melton's barbecue restaurant from the railway bridge upstream to the textile mill dam, a distance of about a mile.

The Neuse River in the Kinston and Goldsboro areas boasts good angling, and the juncture of Pitchkettle Creek and the Neuse east of Kinston near Ft. Barnwell has long been a favorite spot.

Good fishing has been reported on the Trent River, but few fishermen have shown interest in it. It is quite possible that the Trent will become an important shad river as anglers explore its possibilities during migrations.

There are two game species of shad in North Carolina rivers. The American, or white shad, is larger, running from one and a half to eight pounds, with a maximum of 12 pounds. The hickory shad is smaller, from one to three pounds, with a maximum weight of six pounds, but is a better jumper than the hickory, and ounce for ounce every bit the game fish as its larger cousin.

Whereas white shad prefer to spawn in major rivers, hickorys like smaller tributary streams. The best white shad spot is the Cape Fear. Both white and hickory shad are caught in the Black, North East Cape Fear, Trent and Tar. The Neuse is better known for hickorys, although it has its share of whites, but at Pitchkettle Creek whites are rare.

The North Carolina state record for shad was set just last spring on the Cape Fear River by Randall H. Neal. The fish weighed five pounds and four ounces. Since the Cape Fear fishery has developed recently, it is likely that the current record will not stand long. Increased angler interest will surely result in more fishermen on the river, more fish caught and larger specimens reported.

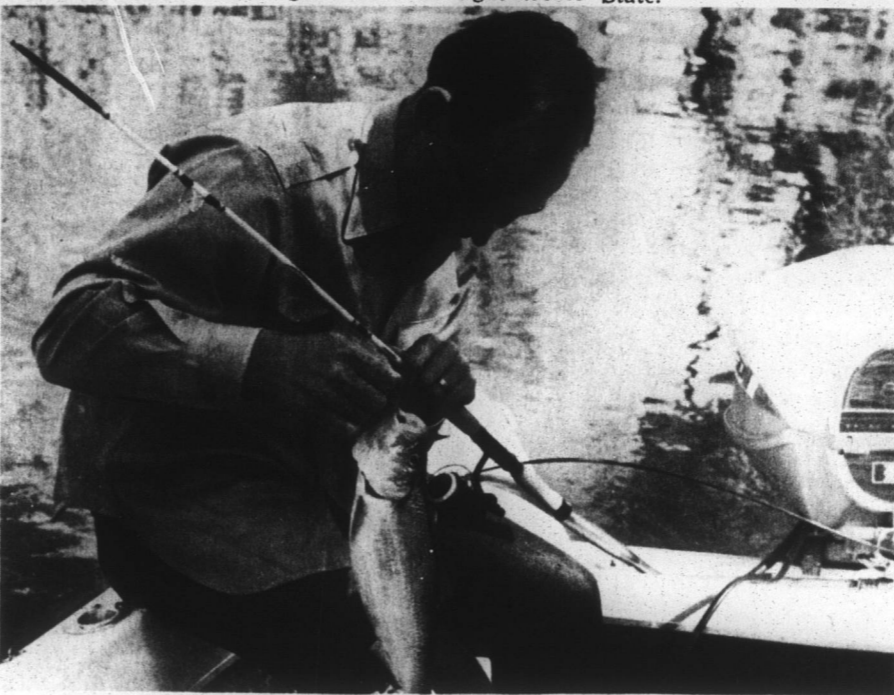
In most years, the Tar Heel shad migration begins in late February, peaks in April and ends in late May. But the run occurs in stages, with small peaks a few days after run-offs. Low water somewhat retards upstream movement.

White shad occur along the Atlantic coast from northern New England to Florida, but the hickory shad is principally found in the southern half of this range. The St. Johns River in northern Florida has a run of white shad that peaks in March. The Connecticut River migration reaches an apex in May.

Curiously, southern shad populations die after spawning only once, while

northern shad may spawn to their parent streams, but two or more times. Shad hatchlings remain in the rivers until fall, then re-

turn to the sea where they may remain for two to five years. Some adults return to the table. These qualities, together with increased numbers of shad in the Cape Fear, are stirring interest in the Tar Heel State.



A FAVORITE—An angler lands a hickory shad at the mouth of Pitchkettle Creek between Kinston and New Bern.

Annuals To Use In Very Poor Soil

How often have you heard some gardener say, "But my soil's just ordinary soil and nothing thrives in it"? Even ordinary or even downright poor soil will support certain annuals.

The most tolerant of ordinary soil are zinnias and marigolds, with sweet alyssum and bachelor's buttons close runners-up.

For growing in downright poor soil—soil that is so sandy you wonder how any flower can grow in it—try nasturtiums or portulacas.

If the sandy area is in sun, these two will thrive.

Mass Schedule At St. Ann's

Father Joseph J. Lash, pastor of St. Ann's Catholic Church, announces the following schedule of masses:

Friday, 7 A. M.; Saturday, 8 A. M.; Sunday, 8 A. M.; Monday, 7 A. M.; Wednesday, 7 A. M.

At All Souls' in Columbia: Tuesday, 6 P. M. (Lenten devotions after mass).

At St. Joan of Arc, Plymouth: Thursday, 5:30 P. M. (Way of the Cross after mass); Sunday, 10:30 A. M.

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Forget-Me-Not For Damp Spots

It's a problem that low damp place in the garden, especially if it's also in shade. The plant to beautify it must be tolerant of both conditions—dampness and low light intensity.

There's a plant that does on these conditions—forget-me-not. There's also a variety that will furnish blue flowers from spring to frost if you will just plant the seeds.

First you must know its proper name which, of course, is in Latin. Myosotis (forget-me-not) palustris (swamp or bog-loving) semperflorens (always blooming).

Isn't that just what you want? An everblooming, swamp-loving forget-me-not?

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