**Material and Methods**

*Juvenile American Shad Independent Sampling*

From July 2 through October 25 (17 weeks), electro-fishing collections of young-of-the-year (YOY) juvenile shad and herring were made at numerous predetermined nursery sites to determine relative abundance and timing of outmigration of juvenile shad from South Carolina watersheds. In addition, these data assist with determining distribution, growth rates, food habits, and potential hatchery contribution. Water quality measurements are taken at each sampling site to account for temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and salinity values. All American shad are counted and measured to the nearest total length (mm). As of this year, due to the loss of dedicated funding and crew, sampling efforts were divided between SCDNR freshwater fishery regions II, III, and IV and USFWS staff from Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery. However, all sampling methods remained the same.

**Results and Discussion**

*Juvenile Shad Sampling*

Great Pee Dee River

As part of requirements for the South Carolina American shad sustainable fishing plan, the Great Pee Dee River was sampled August through October for juvenile American shad. A total of 212 juvenile American shad were collected (Table 1). For the 2024 sampling season, this electrofishing effort was conducted by SCDNR Region II staff.

### Table 1. Total number of juvenile American shad (AMS) collected from the Great Pee Dee River in 2024. (Length range = 60-124 mm; average total length = 81 mm.)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | AMS Collected | Pedal Time (s) | CPUE (AMS/hr) |
| 8/22/2024 | 25 | 5400 | 16.67 |
| 8/28/2024 | 8 | 5400 | 5.33 |
| 9/10/2024 | 31 | 5400 | 20.67 |
| 9/24/2024 | 61 | 5400 | 40.67 |
| 10/14/2024 | 45 | 5400 | 30 |
| 10/25/2024 | 42 | 5400 | 28 |
| **Totals** | 212 | 32400 | 23.56 |

Savannah River

As part of requirements for the South Carolina American shad sustainable fishing plan, the Savannah River was sampled this year (August through October) for juvenile American shad. A total of 15 juvenile American shad were collected (Table 2). This sampling was conducted by SCDNR Region III staff.

### Table 2. Total number of juvenile American shad (AMS) collected from Savannah River in 2024. (Length range = 90-121 mm; average total length = 102 mm.)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | AMS Collected | Pedal time (s) | CPUE (AMS/hr) |
| 8/28/2024 | 2 | 5400 | 1.33 |
| 8/30/2024 | 0 | 5400 | 0 |
| 9/10/2024 | 2 | 5400 | 1.33 |
| 9/19/2024 | 0 | 5400 | 0 |
| 10/14/2024 | 4 | 5400 | 2.67 |
| 10/21/2024 | 7 | 5400 | 4.67 |
| **Totals** | 15 | 34200 | 1.67 |