

Green Crab Trapping 2021

On August 14, 2021, the Arrowsic Shellfish Conservation Committee, friends, and neighbors conducted another survey of green crabs in our rivers. During the morning low tide five boats put pogy and mackerel-baited crab traps down in thirteen spots around the island. We used nine traps with a cylindrical shape and four modified eel traps with a cuboid shape.

Twelve traps were retrieved after six hours, one at North Squirrel flat was lost. We counted a total of 927 crabs, 512 were females, 415 males. They were measured, color-graded, and sexed. The carapace of the largest male was 8.3cm wide and it was captured at Tom Cod Rock. The largest female with 7cm was caught across from Morse Cove.

The trap at Fisher Eddy had the highest number of green crabs, followed by the trap at Day Marker #21 on the Sasonoa and Crow Isle on the Back River. This year the highest percentage (81%) of female green crabs per trap were found at Fisher Eddy. As in [previous years the data](#) we gathered went off to the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust.

If you are interested in studying the curious ways of the green crab with us, please contact clams@arrowsic.org.



Interested in reading more about it?

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/science-research/species/invasives/greencrabs/index.html>

<http://www.islandinstitute.org/working-waterfront/sea-soil-invasive-crabs-turn-fields-green>

<https://downeast.com/nature-2/green-crab-invasion/>