

## Green Crab Count 2023

As in previous years, the members of Arrowsic Shellfish Conservation Committee (ASCC), friends, and neighbors conducted another one-day survey in the rivers that surround our island, setting baited traps in twelve locations at low tide. The traps were retrieved six hours later.

Compared to 1027 green crabs in 2022, we caught a total of only 324 green crabs this year. Why so few? We don't know the reasons but that didn't stop us from speculating. Could the heavy rains in June have been responsible, trapping on an overcast day, a green crab 'bug' or competition within the species for resources?

The crabs were measured, color-graded, and sexed. We identified 212 males and 112 females. The largest catch with 113 crabs was lifted on the Sasanoa at Palace Cove. The data collection can be found on [Arrowsic's website](#). It appears that the green crabs are here to stay but the numbers continue to be of anecdotal value because of many inconsistent parameters: time of the summer, trap locations, moon phases, and sometimes lost equipment. So far, our excel sheets serve to describe observations of Arrowsic's interactions with Green Crabs in the past 9 years. There is a rumor that next year may be the last, and it would be the 10<sup>th</sup> time. If you want to get involved contact [clams@arrowsic.org](mailto:clams@arrowsic.org).



–Karin Sadtler