

# History of Green Crabs and Control Methods in New England



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# Historical Appearance

- First Published Reports South of Cape Cod in 1880's
- Numerous Reports and Observations North of Cape Cod early 1900's
- Maine Marine Wardens reports:
  - Many in Phippsburg in 1906-1907
  - Present in Boothbay Harbor in 1909
  - Few observed in St George River in 1907
- Earliest Report in Eastern Maine
  - Warden Woodward observed great numbers on flats on Spruce Island – 4 miles east of Jonesport in 1919
- First complaints as enemy to Soft-shell clams in western part of state in 1914-1916

# Historical Controls Tried

- Trapping
- Fencing
- Dragging
- Poison
- Electric Fencing

# Trapping

- 1930 Essex Mass
  - Two lobsterman paid \$.50/bushel
  - 3 hours – 7 traps 50 bushels
- Loves Cove, Southport
  - 1949 Traps baited with 6 clams
  - Fall inter-tidal caught more females
  - Winter deep water large males
  - Populations migrate to traps

# Fencing

Plum Island Sound Newburyport , Mass 1953



Experimental clam farm protected from crab predators by 300 foot circular fence, Plum Island Sound near Newburyport, Massachusetts, June 1953.

# Fencing

Jonesport 1954



Soft-shell clams planted at 50 per square foot inside and outside crab fence at Jonesport, Maine, May 1954.

A cooperative Fish and Wildlife Service and Maine project.

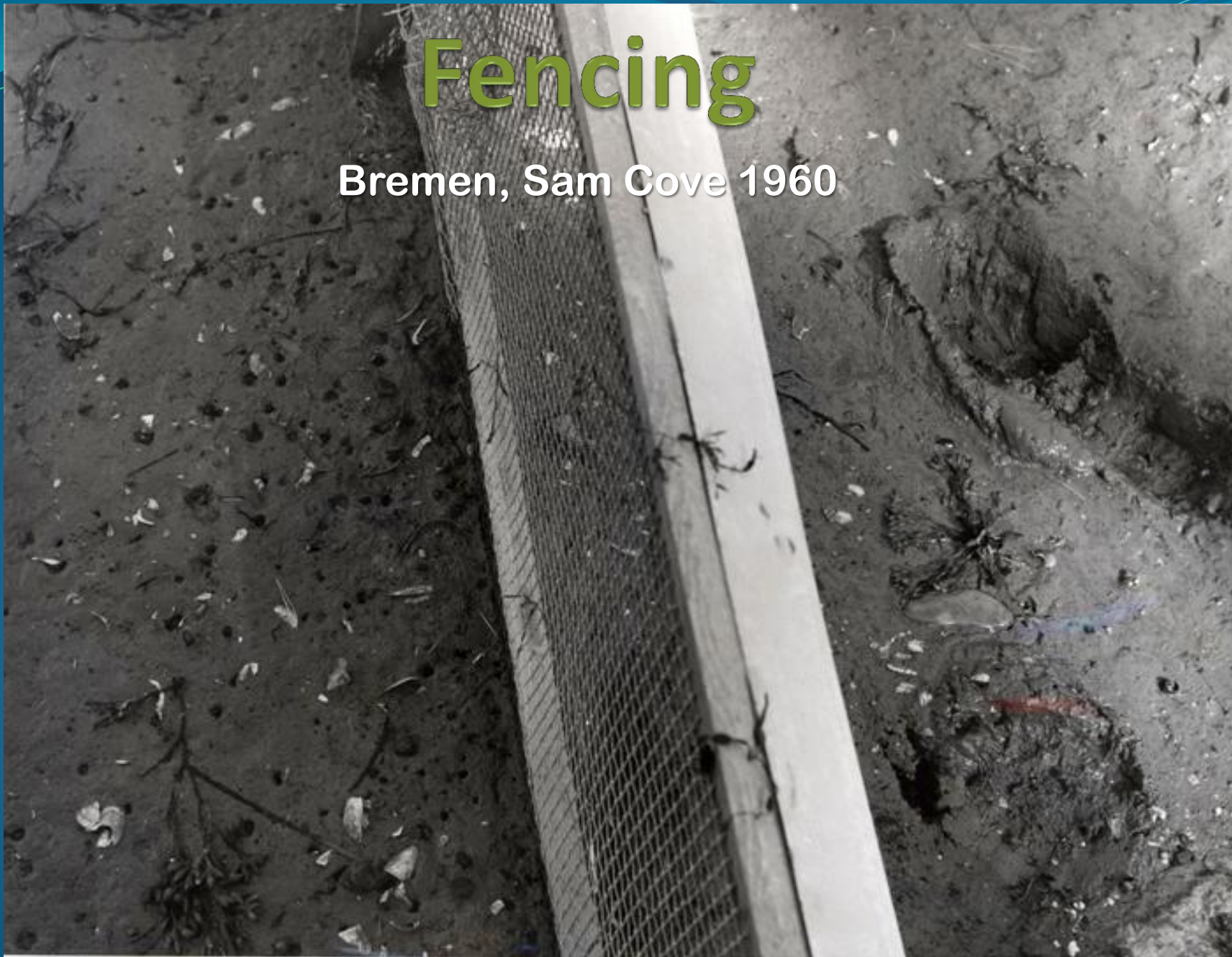
# Fencing

Bremen, Sam Cove 1960



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# Poison

- **Maine Sea and Shore Fisheries**
  - John Hurst 1953 – DDT and Lindane
- **Situate Mass 1950's Mosquito control**
  - 40% Fuel Oil DDT solution 2 pounds/acre
- **Baited Poison Fence – Jonesport 1960**

