

CBC Radio, *World at Six*, May 26, 2017

INTRO: Our next story has all the trappings of a sci-fi horror flick such as *The Thing* or *Alien*. An invader arrives and slowly takes over its new territory seemingly unstoppable. It begins mating with the local species creating a new, even stronger creature. Well, the story is all-too-real in the icy waters of Newfoundland. They're being overtaken by strange, green crabs that eat everything they come across even each other.

As the CBC's Chris O'Neill-Yates tells us, fishermen and scientists are struggling to find a solution. [33 seconds]

CLIP: (Gull sounds and unidentified voice saying they're numerous). [3 seconds]

Ever since European Green Crab appeared on Placentia Bay on the south coast of Newfoundland a decade ago, their population has exploded. They range from thumbnail size to crab that can fit in the palm of your hand. Fisherman Clarence Marsh blames them for his low catches of lobster. [16 seconds]

CLIP: I really do think the green crab is eatin' the lobster spawn so that got to make an effect on the lobsters y'know. [8 seconds]

CLIP: They were born ferocious. [2 seconds]

SCRIPT: Cynthia McKenzie is a fisheries scientist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans who studies invasive species. Mackenzie is part of a team of scientists who recently made a remarkable discovery. They found that the hardy green crab in Newfoundland waters are a hybrid, the result of interbreeding between populations from the United States and from Europe that came here through shipping. [24 seconds]

CLIP: And so now we have a group that are very aggressive and can tolerate the cold. [5 seconds]

SCRIPT: So much cold that they can be frozen for twenty-four hours and come back to life. They can survive on land for weeks and live in salt or fresh water. And green crab will eat anything, even *other* green crab. [15 seconds]

CLIP: They eat each other and tear each other to pieces and eat each other and, they are cannibalistic. [5 seconds]

SCRIPT: Small numbers of green crab have been found in neighbouring Fortune Bay where lobster stocks are healthy and the fishery is very profitable. If these voracious eaters get established there, it could be devastating for that fishery too. [15 seconds]

CLIP: (Male voice apparently fisherman Marsh who appears to be saying something to the effect that fishermen could catch boat loads of green crab.) [4 seconds]

SCRIPT: Government has been issuing licences to fishermen in recent years to catch green crab. The traps fill up with hundreds of crab in a couple of hours. Marsh believes government should issue more licences to get the population under control. There isn't a market for green crab so they end up being used as compost or simply dumped. [22 seconds]

CLIP: We're never going to eradicate them. [2 seconds]

SCRIPT: But McKenzie says if fishermen could trap more of the larger green crab, perhaps seabirds, crab and lobster would begin to see the smaller ones as a source of food that may just help turn the tide against a nasty invader. Chris O'Neill-Yates, CBC NEWS, North Harbour, Newfoundland. [18 seconds]

(Sound of gulls followed by sounds of song, you've got the crab in the bucket...) [6 seconds]

Music fades under announcer who reminds listeners they're listening to the *World at Six* on CBC Radio.