

GHOST SHRIMP

The ghost shrimp, Callinassa californiensis, lives up to its name by having a translucent pinkish-white color and seldom being seen except when dug from its three to four foot burrow in the mud flats along our Oregon coast. It is not used as food for human consumption, as its close relative the edible shrimp, but rather as bait for flounders, perch, kelp, and other bay and ocean fish. Considerable numbers are sold by moorage operators to tourists and sportsmen.

Forcing water through a nozzle driven along side the shrimp hole in the mud causes the shrimp to be washed to the surface where it is picked up with a hand net. While this is the commercial method many thousands more are obtained by sportsmen using a shovel for equipment.

There are an estimated 10,000 acres of tide flats in Oregon suitable as habitat for these mud dwellers. It is calculated that there are 344,000 shrimp per acre or 1720 gallons. in heavily populated flats. For two of the smaller bays, the Alsea and Siletz, the value of the ghost shrimp fishery to five fishermen was calculated at \$1200 for the summer of 1948. It is conservative to say the sports catch equalled this value for the same period.