Bloodworms

Quite Valuable

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a part of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, says that per unit of weight bloodworms used as bait by sport fishermen may be the most valuable of any regularly harvested marine animal.

Preliminary NMFS statistics indicate that about 845,000 pounds of bloodworms were harvested in Maine last year.

They were worth about

They were worth about \$1,250,000 to the diggers who take the worms from a mud flat as the receding tide exposes it.
The bloodworms have aver-

aged about 140 to the pound in recent years, and cost anglers about \$1 a dozen.

This works out to almost \$12 per pound, if they were sold by weight.

Because of the value of blood-worms, scientists with Maine's Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries, supported by a grant-in-aid from NMFS, are studying causes of mortalities in harvest-ing, handling, and shipping.

Because of the value of blood-

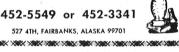
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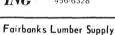
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MISS KALTAG — Clara Andre, 18, was the charming representative of Kaltag in the Miss Alaska-Universe contest held in fair-banks. Although she didn't win, she made everybody sorry that Kaltag didn't have more swimming pools.
—Photo by FRANK MURPHY

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