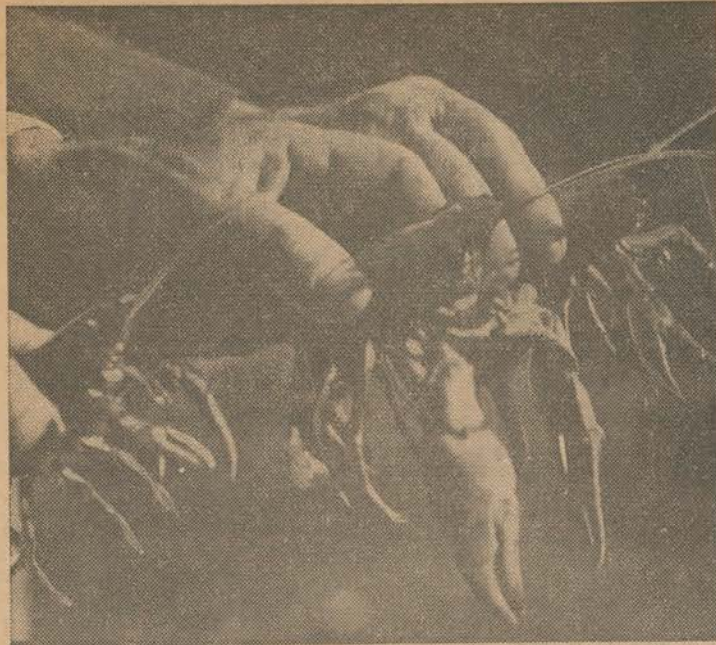


SLOUGH WATERS KILL FISH



Sewage polluted waters killed these crayfish and carp picked up in Willamette slough Thursday by fish and game commissioners.

Surveyors Find Sewage Kills Slough Fish

Journal
Oct 8, 1937

Another argument in favor of the initiative measure sponsored by the Oregon Stream Purification league to prevent stream pollution was turned up Thursday when state game commissioners and fish commissioners inspected Willamette slough, finding conditions there highly destructive to fish life. The investigation was made after slough fishermen had complained that sewage was eating up the oxygen necessary to support the fish. The situation is aggravated by tidal conditions which back up the water for long periods of time at this season of the year.

The investigators reported finding 100 dozen dead crawfish within a

short distance of the Burlington ferry and said fishermen had reported finding as many as 600 dozen dead crawfish in the same area.

State Game Supervisor Frank Wire, Mike Hoyt of the fish commission, Matt Ryckman, in charge of fish hatcheries for the game commission; Senator Byron G. Carney and William L. Finley, naturalist, made the inspection and reported their findings at today's meeting of the purification league, which will take final action on the initiative measure before starting the drive to obtain the necessary number of signatures to put the bill before voters in the November election.

POLLUTED WATER DEADLY TO FISH

Oregonian

Tons of Finny Victims Line Shores of Slough

Oct. 8 — 1937

Stained a deep brown by accumulated pollution, the waters of Willamette slough yesterday drove thousands of crayfish and sculpins to the shorelines and river residents feared the loss of all fish life.

Fisheries experts of the state, headed by State Senator Carney, inspected several miles of the slough and found tons of dead crayfish, together with a nearly equal number of sculpins.

Few dead game fish were noted by the party that included Matt L. Ryckman, superintendent of state fish hatcheries; M. T. Hoy, master fish warden, Frank W. Wire, state game supervisor, and William L. Finley, naturalist.

Ed Moore, ferryman at Burlington, said that the influx of pollution started Wednesday. Salmon, trout and jack-salmon were killed, he said.

Water Kills Crayfish

The lethal stain extended as far north as St. Helens, according to Peter C. Domesy, fishermen's resort operator at Scappoose.

Last year the same condition was encountered, game department chiefs said.

Professional crayfishermen reported the loss of their entire week's catch. The live crayfish are held in wire boxes moored to floats and the stained water killed several thousand dollars' worth of crayfish, Moore said.

High Tides Blamed

Master Fish Warden Hoy believes that the condition was brought about by a series of high tides that held the normal low river stage flow at a stand-still.

"We have had seven and eight-foot tides all week," he said, "and this would hold the flow of the slough nearly stationary save for a few hours of slight movement."