

## 234- Commercial use of ghost shrimps (Decapoda: Callianassidea: Thalassinidea) along the Brazilian coast: current state and perspectives

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A small fraction (~3%) of the extant species from the infraorders Callianassidea and Thalassinidea collectively known as mud lobsters and mud or ghost shrimps — are used for human consumption or as bait for commercial and recreational fishing around the world. Here we evaluate the current status of extraction of intertidal ghost shrimps and its fishery potential along the Brazilian coast. Our results revealed that only Callichirus major and Sergio mirim (Callianassidae) - two out of the 30 Brazilian species of ghost shrimps — are harvested intensely by local fishermen as bait for recreational fishing. The former is collected throughout the year in Sao Paulo and Pernambuco states, while the latter mainly during the warmer months exclusively in Southern region of Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul State). Callichirus major reached a high density (> 10 shrimps<sup>-2</sup>) in many sandy beaches from the Santa Catarina State to Rio Grande do Norte. However, this species is not collected in most part of Brazilian coast. In terms of commercialization, C. major is normally sold at about US\$ 3.00 - 4.00 per dozen of fresh bait, while S. mirim at around US\$ 1.50 - 2.00 per packages of five/six shrimps as fresh or frozen bait. According to our observations, this non-traditional fishery has intensified during the last years due to the lack of employment opportunities for fishermen and the depletion of other traditional resources. We argued in favour of the establishment of management plans and educational programs to sustainable use of these potential resources.

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