Here is a small scale fishing worm production system based on using the European Nightcrawler, it is very similar to the Red Worm system, but again the devil is in the detail. Pay attention to the detail.

When starting small and using a room within the house, I would recommend feeding the worms with one of the dry food mixes like Purina Worm Chow and giving them only an occasional live food mix such as my cooked kitchen scrap recipe. Feeding your worms in this manner will keep smells and insects down.

Using trays or crates that measure 600mm x 400mm (24 inches x 16 inches) and around 100mm high (4 inches) high.

Using 1 tray of EH worms with 200 worms in it, after the **17 week** process (allowing 3 weeks to produce cocoons + 4 weeks for cocoon to hatch + 10 weeks for baby worms to grow out = 17 weeks) you should be producing 3 cocoons x 1 worm per cocoon x 200 breeders = 600 large EH worms per week per breeding tray.

To produce 6000 worms per week you will need 10 trays with breeding worms, set at 200 worms per tray.

Fattening your worms will take 10 weeks. Therefore you will need to allow for 10 weeks' worth of hatching out/fattening trays. The best density of worms for fattening is 500 worms per tray. To obtain our 6000 worms per week you will need to use 12 trays of 500 worms x 10 weeks = **120 trays for EH worms** (or 10 stacks x 12 high)

The floor space required for a setup like this would be around 4 x 4 metres = 16 square metres (~ 160 sq ft). Having trays that can be stacked on top of each other saves dramatically on floor space. We use crates stacked 10 high.

We place around 20 EH worms per cup for fishing. So if you are producing 6000 EF worms per week you can cup 6000/20 = 300 cups per week. At around US$2 per cup you have an almost full time wage coming in.

Look for local bait and tackle shops that can take these quantities throughout the fishing season. Do not go to too many shops. Always keep in mind that your bait shops will want a regular supply and if you overstretch your ability to supply them and run them out of stock, they will most likely dump you as a supplier as quick as dumping a hot potato.

You could also sell directly to the fishermen if you live nearby a popular fishing spot or you can market via one of the many web based selling systems. Selling direct to fishermen means that you can add to your price

the margin put on by the bait and tackle shops which can be as high as 100%.

Bentley's notes
Like George says, pay attention to the details here. For the smaller Red Worm operation only 36 trays were needed. 4500 large Red Worms were being produced per week (after 14 week start up period)

Reds – 500 breeders per tray (typical stacking bin sized tray)
14 week start-up period (3 weeks cocoon production + 1 week refrigeration + 2 weeks cocoon maturation + 8 weeks for growing out)
36 total trays needed
~ 100 sq ft floor space
Trays stacked 10 high
4500 large Reds per week
60 Reds per cup = 75 cups per week

Euros – 200 breeders per tray (but note the specific size of tray mentioned)
17 week period (3 weeks to produce cocoons + 4 weeks for hatching + 10 weeks for grow out)
500 young worms per tray for grow out
120 total trays needed (10 stacks x 12 trays)
~ 160 sq ft floor space
Trays stacked 10 high
6000 mature Euros per week
20 Euros per cup = 300 cups per week

Even if this operation was cut in half it would be more lucrative than the Red Worm operation.