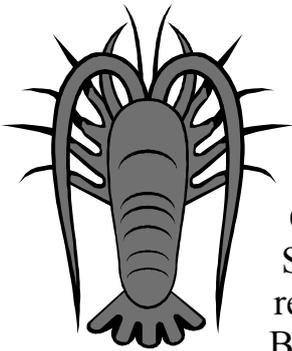


Lobster Tales

Synopsis

A fun, one hour, character-driven documentary about Crayfish,
and the people who are passionate about them.

This ‘animal meets people’ program about Lobsters, and the Fisher-Folk whose livelihood depends on them, is presented as a collage of wry anecdotes.



Lobsters, by and large, lead lazy uneventful lives at the bottom of the sea – so the majority of us believe. Not so off the coast of Western Australia. On the sandy bottom of the Indian Ocean, hundreds of thousands of them are on the move. Every Summer they march single file, crossing great distances, for reasons known only to themselves. For decades, Marine Biologists have puzzled over the strange behaviours of these ancient, fascinating creatures, and Fisher-Folk have profited by second-guessing the direction of their migrations.

Lobster Tales brings together a kaleidoscope of people, from vastly different Australian subcultures, who marvel at Lobsters, risk their lives harvesting them, gastronomically revere them, and export them live into lucrative overseas markets. Some strive to protect them. Others flatly refuse to eat them for religious reasons. Lobster lovers have been known to tell them their troubles, and dress them up as outrageous fashion accessories.

From the remote northern coastline of Western Australia (settled primarily because Fisher-folk wanted easier access to the Lobsters) to the other side of the continent where Larry, Australia’s Giant Lobster monument, towers above the highway, *Lobster Tales* are told. Perth people share them on their diving weekends. ‘Old salts’ from Geraldton relate them about the birth of the industry, back in World War Two. Right up and down the coast, Gung-ho Cray Crews yell-tell them to each other, as they carve up the ocean in the hunt for their catch.

Lobster fan-fair and festivity greet our central characters as they reconvene to watch the new season kick off with the Blessing of the Fleet. The Fisher-Folk nod at the patron saints, point at the fishy fashions, and smile at the procession of virgins, but the Lobsters are marching. . . . The fishing fleet is blessed with great aplomb, and the Lobsters wished well, as our characters race after them, amid the cheery chatter of *Lobster Tales*.