



Hunter and the hunted.

Craze for crays

THE great achievement of *Lobster Tales*, a delightfully oddball WA-made documentary on the lucrative local crayfish industry (*ABC, Sunday, 6pm*), is that the crusty, red-skinned creatures above and below the sea are imbued with equal amounts of personality.

Director Celia Tate (working from a witty, well-researched script by Sarah Rossetti) strikes such a lovely balance between the lobsters and fishermen that it's more like a well-wrought tragi-comedy than a traditional nature doco, with our sympathy swinging between the hunters and the hunted.

So strange are the fishermen, many of whom are millionaires who forgo the creature comforts while living and working on the tiny, inhospitable Abrolhos Islands during the eight-month season, and so human are the lobsters (we see them giving birth, loving, fighting, leaving home) it's a pity that this very amusing role reversal was not pushed just a little harder.

Nonetheless, after watching this strikingly photographed, jauntily scored documentary about some most lovably eccentric West Australians you won't look at crayfish — or crayfishermen — the same way again.

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