



The King of Crustaceans • Study Guide

In the north Atlantic, the American Lobster is the undisputed king of crustaceans. It's also a tremendously important commercial catch. While all the other fisheries are collapsing, why are lobsters resisting the trend? Jonathan goes out with a Maine lobsterman to learn why, and he dives down below to find the biggest lobsters he has ever seen.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the American Lobster, *Homarus americanus*.
2. Introduces viewers to the traditional methods of fishing for these crustaceans and explains why the fisheries are sustainable.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a Crustacean? Name a few Crustaceans. What are some characteristics of all Crustaceans?
2. How are lobsters caught?
3. What color is a lobster?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. What color is an American lobster? Is it red in the wild?
2. How do lobster fishers make sure that the mature egg-laying females do not get caught? How does this improve the future viability of the species?
3. What do most lobsters do when they approach a lobster trap underwater?
4. What are the two claws of a lobster called and how are they different in design?
5. Internet research: what makes an American lobster different from a Spiny lobster?