

## **Pearl divers off the coast of Broome (1949)**

[Music]

NARRATOR: The shell openers run their knives or fingers under every oyster, always hoping for the feel of a pearl.

So, it is captured from the sea. Pearl shell for the buttons on evening shirts, the knife handles on dinner tables, for the dials of compasses, watches and delicate instruments, for jewellery and ornaments.

When the Broome fleets have been at sea for two weeks, a supply boat comes out from the base to take off their shell and leave fresh rations.