

# Essequibo River

1. Essequibo River is the queen of rivers all  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**  
Essequibo River is the queen of rivers all  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

**Somebody O Johnny, somebody o**  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

2. Essequibo cap'n is the king of cap'ns all  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

**Somebody O Johnny, somebody o**  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

3. Essequibo bo'sun is the king of bo'suns all  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

4. Essequibo sailors is the chief of sailors all  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

5. Essequibo maidens  
is the queen of maidens all  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

6. Essequibo Sally's  
is the queen of Sally's all  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

7. Essequibo River is the queen of rivers all  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o**

**Somebody O Johnny, somebody o**  
**Buddy ta-na-na we are somebody o.**



Map by Knusser, via Wikimedia.



Essequibo near Rockstone



Essequibo near Potaro-Siparuni

### Notes

Halyard shanty.

This version: Jim Mageean, CD: The Capstan Bar.

Hugill, Stan, 1994, *Shanties of the Seven Seas* :

this is a halyard shanty of West Indian or Guiana origin "and needed a Negro shantymen to do it justice, having its full compliment of yells and hitches". t was probably

also used ashore for jobs where pulling was needed.

Most of these West Indian shanties were first used for jobs such as moving or working cargo [ashore] and then later taken to sea by black seamen shipping aboard Yankee, Bluenose (Nova Scotia) or British wind-jammers, on the decks of which the songs would be adapted for work at halyard or capstan..

**Essequibo** - the largest river in Guyana (see map). Also spelled Esequibo.