

1. When I was a schoolboy
I lived at home at ease
Now I am a trawlin' man,
I sail the wintry seas.
I thought I'd like seafarin' life,
it's all right 'til I found
It's a damn sight worse than slavery
when we got on the ground.

And it was
Haul, boys haul. Haul, boys haul.
Heave away the capstan, lads,
and let's get up the trawl!
When the winds are blowin',
the ship's a gently rollin'.
My Emma, my Emma,
won't you be true to me.

2. Every night in winter, as regular as a clock
It's on wi' your ol' sou'wester,
likewise your oilskin frock
An then up to the capstan lads
and then we'll heave away
That's the cry in the middle of the night
as well as in the day!

3. Now when the fish are up on deck,
a pilin' to our knees
We slip and slide and wonder why
we ever went to sea.
But then ashore we sell the catch;
that's easier to bear -
For it's beer all night in the Sailor's Arms
when we get paid our share...

3. With winter passin' over
and springtime comin' on,
We go out in all weathers,
no time for beer or song.
For the fish don't wait for lovers,
as you might quickly find,
Put on your oilskin jacket lads
and leave the girls behind...

4. When our trip is over,
hard up the tiller goes,
And straightway into Yarmouth
with a big jib on the nose,
And when we reach the pier head,
the girls will loudly say
"Here come our jolly trawlin' lads
that have been so long away".

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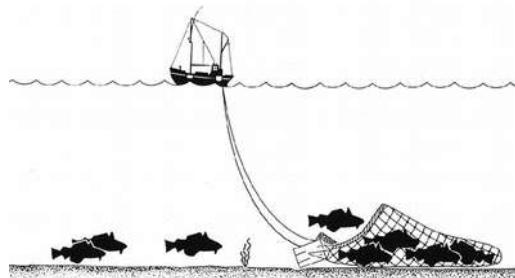
Sing along with Johnny Collins at
<https://youtu.be/ZvKP3SRqjRA>

Notes:

This is very similar to Sam Larner's song, [The Smacksman](#).

Alternative titles

Haul boys haul, Heave on the trawl,



Trawling the sea bottom for fish,
by NOAA, via [Wikimedia](#)

Trawl - A sturdy bag or net that can be dragged along the bottom, or towed at various depths above the bottom, to catch fish.

The ground - the fishing ground

Sou'wester - collapsible, wide-brimmed, oilskin rain-hat

Frock - or smock.

Jib - a triangular headsail carried forward of the mast, its luff (leading edge) attached to the forestay
www.transitionrig.com/glossary.htm



Trawling today

You might like to watch the video about life on a modern trawler at
https://youtu.be/_qKm4Sr_DpY