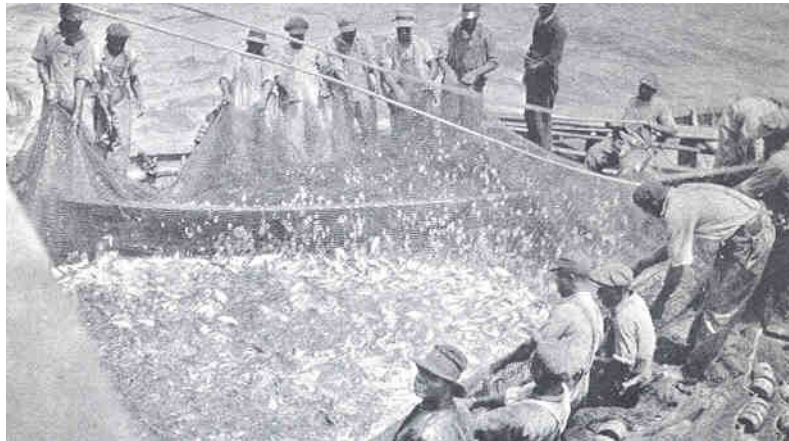


Help Me to Raise Um

1. Won't you help me to raise um boys?
Way-hay honey
Won't you help me to raise um boys?
Way-hay honey
Won't you help me to raise 'em boys?
See her when the sun goes down.
2. Well the weight's on the mate boys.
Way-hay honey
Well the weight's on the mate boys...
Way-hay honey
Well the weight's on the mate boys.
See her when the sun goes down.
3. The weight's on the pilot boat.
Way-hay honey ...
4. The weight's on the donkey boat.
Way-hay honey ...
5. I got me a yeller gal.
Way-hay honey ...
6. Her name is Emmelina, boys
Way-hay honey ...
7. Won't you help me to raise um boys?
Way-hay honey
Won't you help me to raise um boys?
Way-hay honey
Won't you help me to raise 'em boys?
See her when the sun goes down.



Menhaden Fishery. Purse-Seine Catch Bunted Up for Transfer to Vessel's Hold
by *Radcliffe, Lewis* (1923), US govt Printing Office:
via [wikimedia commons](#)

Notes:

A **net-pulling** and hauling shanty.

Alternative titles: Help me to raise 'em, Help me to raise um, Will you help..., Won't you help...

A hauling song used in Menhaden fishing.
Compare the tune with *Swing low sweet chariot*.

The ship sends two motorized net-boats out, with crew, to surround the fish with the net, the captain running one, the mate running the other. When they've closed the purse, they haul the fish up to the surface by hand with some help from the donkey engine on the main boat. Slow, hard work, some days.

See youtu.be/d5_lx_98vxU to learn how to haul a purse-seine net..
Read about menhaden fisheries (8 pages) at -
mdsg.umd.edu/sites/default/files/files/MN18_1.PDF

GarrityBlake, Barbara J. writes in **The Fish**

Factory (University of Tennessee, 1994) wrote:

Crewmen emphasized that singing or 'blowing' of chanteys was not simply helpful; the chanting was necessary to generate the collective power and euphoria for raising hundreds of pounds of fish. Fishermen described working shoulder to shoulder as one, singing to make "heaven and earth come together," while focused trance-like on the "money" in the net. While singing, crewmen lost all track of time, surroundings, and aching muscles" (pp 104-105).

"What make the chantey so beautiful, is the pretty harmony" a crewman told me. "One person can't do it. You gotta have bass, baritone, tenor, then lead voice, see. All them boys get hooked up together, you got something pretty. Make you feel good. Make you pull good" (p. 103).

Notes on the words

The weight's on ... - probably refers to whose boat (see previous note) is carrying the weight of the fish.