

Johnson Girls

1. Johnson girls is mighty fine girls
Walk around, honey, walk around
 Johnson girls is mighty fine girls
Walk around, honey, walk around.

2. Neat in the waist she got mighty fine legs
Walk around, honey, walk around
 Neat in the waist she got mighty fine legs.
Walk around, honey, walk around

3. Great big legs and teensy-eensy feet
Walk around, honey, walk around
 Great big legs and teensy-eensy feet.
Walk around, honey, walk around

4. Beef steak, beef steak, make a little
 gravy
Walk around, honey, walk around
 Your thing, my thing, make a little baby.
Walk around, honey, walk around

5. Some way over yonder they got jewmaka
 jam
Walk around, honey, walk around
 Hot as cayenne but it good, God damn.
Walk around, honey, walk around

6. Johnson girls is a-mighty fine girls
Walk around, honey, walk around
 Johnson girls is a-mighty fine girls
Walk around, honey, walk around.

Unusually, at the end of each verse the Wailers sing a long note; normally there is silence here (for the fishermen to arrange themselves for the next haul).

Notes:

Net-pulling shanty used in menhaden fishing

This version: CD Tomorrow's Tide, **Salt of the Earth**

While the song was being sung the men were "hardnin' up the nets" that is, they were standing in the two purse-boats which formed a triangle against the side of the ship and were pulling the fish-laden net to the surface of the ocean. The first line of each verse was sung by a single man and the entire crew took up the chorus.

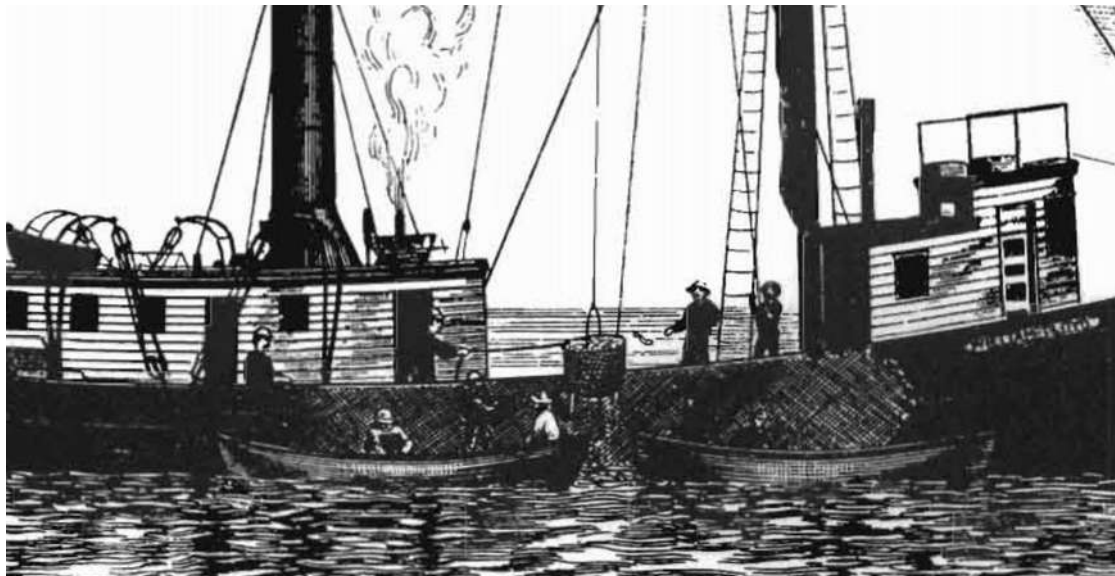
The men were silent during the interval of pulling the net. The song continued each time they paused to get a new grip on the net.

Archive of Folk Culture, The American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, Washington



The Johnson Girls - an all-female shanty group, named after the above shanty. from www.thejohnsongirls.com

Hear Shoreham's **Wellington Wailers** at https://youtu.be/g4cnz_PUIMg



*Smith, Joseph W, An early menhaden steamer bails in the catch. (central section) on p31 of document 534: The Atlantic and Gulf Menhaden Purse Seine Fisheries: etc for the **National Marine Fisheries Service**, Scientific Publications Office. spo.nmfs.noaa.gov*