

(Rolling down to old) Maui

1. It's a damned tough life full of toil and strife ☐
We whaler-men undergo.
And we don't give a damn, when the gale is done
How hard the wind did blow. ☐
 We're homeward bound!
 'Tis a damn fine sound
On a good ship taut and free,
 And we don't give a damn
 When we drink our rum
With the girls of old Maui.

**Rolling down to old Maui,
Rolling down to old Maui;
 We're homeward bound
 From the arctic ground
Rolling down to old Maui. ☐**

2. Once more we sail with a northerly gale
Through the ice and sleet and rain.
And them coconut fronds in them tropic lands
We soon shall see again.
Six hellish months have passed away
In the cold Kamchatka sea,
And now we're bound from the arctic ground,
☐Rolling down to old Maui.

**Rolling down to old Maui,
Rolling down to old Maui;
 We're homeward bound
 From the arctic ground
Rolling down to old Maui.**

3. We'll heave the lead where old Diamond-head
☐Looms up on old Wahoo.
Our mast and yards are sheathed with ice
And our decks are hid from view.
The hellish ice of the sea-cut tiles
That deck the Arctic Sea
Are miles behind in the frozen wind
Since we steered for old Maui.

**Rolling down to old Maui,
Rolling down to old Maui;
 We're homeward bound
 From the arctic ground
Rolling down to old Maui.**

4. Once more we sail with a favourable gale
Towards our island home.
Our mainyard sprung, our whaling done,
And we ain't got far to roam.
Our stuns'l booms are carried away
What care we for that sound
While a living gale is after us?
Thank God we're homeward bound!

**Rolling down to old Maui,
Rolling down to old Maui;
 We're homeward bound
 From the arctic ground
Rolling down to old Maui.**

5. How warm the breeze in the tropic seas
Now the ice is far astern,
And them native maids in them island glades
Are awaiting our return.
While their big dark eyes even now look out,
Hoping some fine day to see
Our baggy sails running 'fore the gales
Rolling down to old Maui.

**Rolling down to old Maui,
Rolling down to old Maui;
 We're homeward bound
 From the arctic ground
Rolling down to old Maui.**

6. And now we're anchored in the bay
With the Kanakas all around
With chants and soft aloha's
They greet us homeward bound.
And now ashore we'll have good fun -
We'll paint them beaches red.
Waking in the arms of a wahine maid,
With a big fat aching head.

**Rolling down to old Maui,
Rolling down to old Maui;
 We're homeward bound
 From the arctic ground
Rolling down to old Maui.**

We sing along with [Derek Gifford](#), from CD *Sailing By*

On YouTube [Dave Webber](#) sings this shanty lustily at youtu.be/YgTve-TGMhw, with verse 5 before verse 4.



B.Navez, Southern Right Whale,
via commons.wikimedia.org

(Rolling down to old) Maui

Notes:

Alternative Titles: Old Maui, Rolling down to old Maui

We sing along with [Derek Gifford](#), from CD *Sailing By*

Hugill, Stan, 2006, *Bosun's Locker*, this entry from Spin magazine, vol 9 no 4.

This Yankee whalers' forebitter (song) may have been sung as work song in some ships. The whalers sailed to the Bering Straits and off Kamchatka in search of right and bowhead whales ... in the 1820's and 30's. The main port was Lahaina, capital of the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands.

From the Kamchatka Sea (Sea of Okhotsk) to Hawaii is about 3,220 miles or about 2,800 nautical miles.



2,800 nautical miles (from [Google Maps](#)).

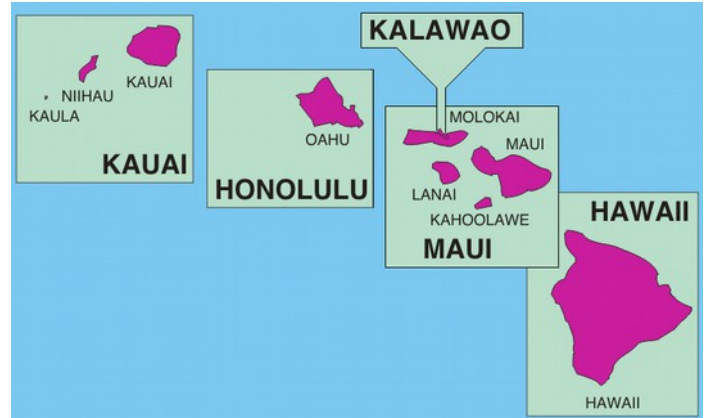
Kamchatka Sea - the old North Pacific whaling ground off the Kamchatka peninsula, eastern Siberia, Russia's Far East. Now called the **Sea of Okhotsk**.

This whaling ground is cold. It is cooled by the Oyashio sea current, the one that cools Japan. The Kamchatka peninsula is snow-covered from October to late May!

Maui - second-largest Hawaiian island

Diamond Head - a volcanic cone on O'ahu

Wahoo - O'ahu, one of the Hawaiian Islands.



Map of Hawaiian Islands from [Wikimedia Commons](#).

stuns'l booms - studdingsail booms or spars

Kanakas - south-sea islanders (see [John Kanaka](#) notes)

Wahine - Hawaiian for "woman", hence a Hawaiian woman.



Karim, Jawed, *Maui, Hawaii Beach*, (via [commons.wikimedia.org](#))