

1. Oh, Roseanne, sweet Roseanne,
Bye bye my Roseanna
I'm goin' away, but not to stay,
And I won't be home tomorrow.

**Bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye,
Bye-bye my Roseanna.
Bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye,
I won't be home tomorrow.**

2. I thought I heard the captain say,
Bye-bye my Roseanna.
Don't you want to go home on your next
payday?
I won't be home tomorrow.

3. The steamboat's comin' round the bend.
Bye-bye my Roseanna.
A-loaded down with fishermen,
I won't be home tomorrow.

**Bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye,
Bye-bye my Roseanna.
Bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye,
I won't be home tomorrow.**

Compare this folkie version by Exmouth
Shantymen <https://youtu.be/BCTlpgxjkTM>

with Bright Light Quartet's 1960 version at
<https://youtu.be/rVCj77KWa1M>

and
<https://archive.culturalequity.org/node/60919>

We may also listen to Sweet Rosyanna by Hulton
Clint at <https://youtu.be/dlO7U1ZhMic>

Notes:

Net-pulling shanty used in menhaden fishing

Other names: Bye bye my Roseanna, Sweet
Roseanne

"Roseanne" is sung as Rosy-Anne
and "Roseanna" is sung as Rosy-Anna.

Bye bye my Roseanna was well known in the
Caribbean and used as a net hauling shanty in the
Menhaden Fisheries.



The Menhaden Fishery

School of menhaden surrounded with purse-seine
and the fish striking the net,
From a sketch by Capt B F Conklin.
See <https://picryl.com/topics/menhaden+fisheries>

In 1960, under the name of "Bright Light Quartet,"
four men - Shedrick Cain, James Campbell, Arnold
Fisher, and Laurence Hodge - performed a number
of songs for Alan Lomax (recordingist). The men were
(had been?) menhaden fishermen, from Virginia on
the Chesapeake Bay.
[Hulton Clint at <https://youtu.be/dlO7U1ZhMic>]

Menhaden fishing was dying out by 1960.

An interesting article in Chesapeake Bay magazine
<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/all-my-work-is-just-the-water/>
is about Nathaniel M Jones,
lifelong Chesapeake waterman from Virginia:

At age 13, Jones learned to hang and splice rope to
create cotton fishing nets from the older watermen
and craftsmen at a nearby net house. He was
eager to join his father on the menhaden boats
running out of Reedville, ...
[Years later, he was] working on one of the boats
out of Reedville **fishing for menhaden.** ...
He served as a **rigger**, pulling up heavy nets
alongside a dozen other men. They'd keep the
rhythm with chanties as they heaved the nets over
the side of the vessel:

"Bye bye bye sweet Roseanne
Bye bye sweet Roseanna
I thought I heard my loving baby say
I won't be home tomorrow"