

1. Farewell and adieu to you fair Spanish ladies  
Farewell and adieu, you ladies of Spain  
For we've received orders for to sail for old  
England  
But we hope in a short time to see you again.

**We'll rant and we'll roar like true British  
sailors  
We'll rant and we'll roar across the salt  
sea;  
Until we strike soundings in the Channel  
of Old Eng-I-and.  
From Ushant to Scilly is thirty-four  
leagues.**

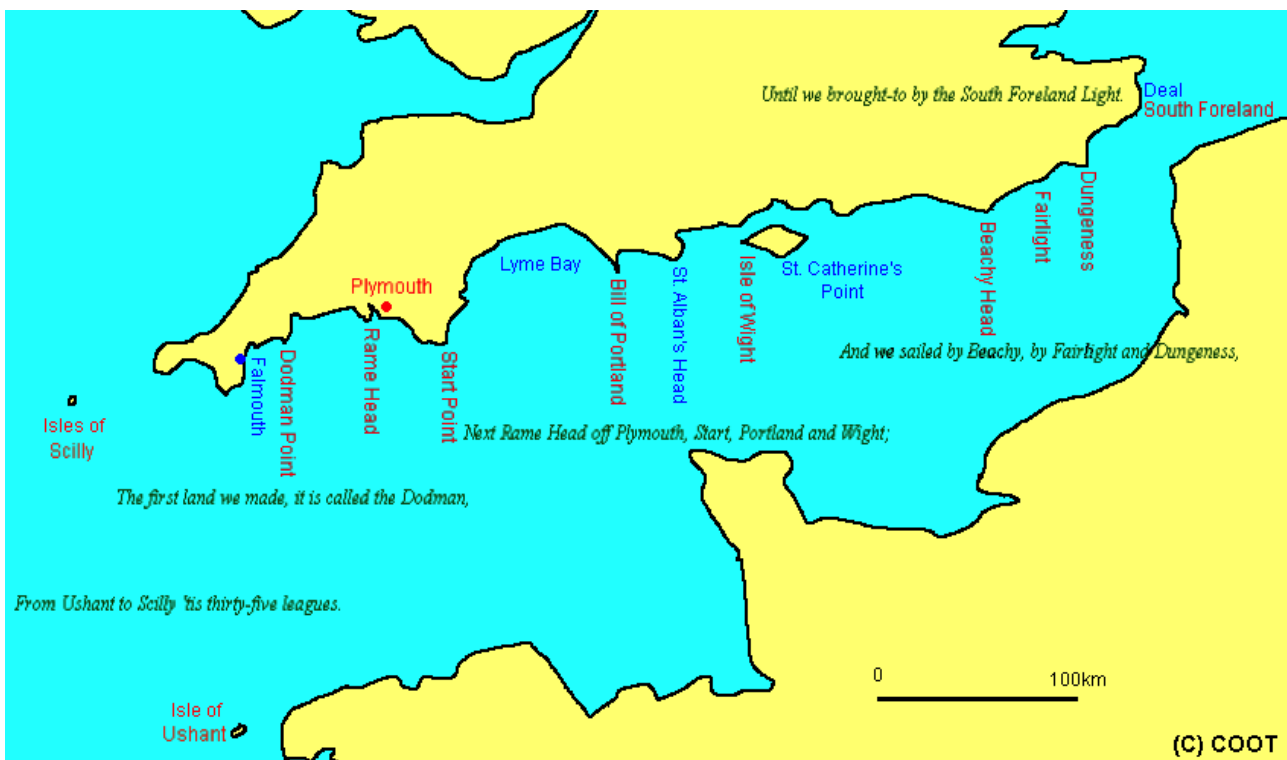
2. We hove our ship to with the wind at the  
sou'west,  
We hove our ship to, to take soundings clear.  
In forty-five fathoms on a fine sandy bottom  
We clewed our main tops'ls and up channel did  
steer.

3. Now the first land we made was a point  
called the Deadman,  
Next Ram Head, past Plymouth, Start,  
Portland and Wight  
We sailed then by Beachy, by Fairlight, and  
Dungeness, [or Dover]  
Then wholly cracked on for the South Foreland  
Light.

4. Then the signal was made for the grand  
fleet to anchor,  
All in the Downs that night for to lie.  
Then it's stand by your stoppers, see clear  
your shank-painters,  
Haul all your clew garnets, let tacks and sheets  
fly.

5. Now let every man toss off a full bumper  
And let every man drink off a full glass  
And we'll drink and be merry and drown  
melancholy  
Singing, here's a good health to each true-  
hearted lass.

You can see where the song's landmarks in this map:



**Coot, Stan : A Map of English Channel**

From the web pages of **Oda Akio** (ARC Sea Shanty Club, Japan),  
"Ransome Songs," [www.geocities.jp/coot2tm/songs/](http://www.geocities.jp/coot2tm/songs/)  
Thank you [Stan](#).

## Notes:

A **Capstan** shanty - **homeward**, from 1769 or earlier.

**Alternative Titles:** Spanish Ladies, Farewell and Adieu

**This version:** Jones, Hughie **Seascape** CD

## Notes on the Place Names

**Ushant** - island off the westernmost point of Brittany.

**Ushant to Scilly** - usually sung as 35 leagues but sometimes it's 34 or 45.

It's actually 38.732 leagues (187.0 KM)... But the distance from Ushant to Scilly had been used as an instrument of maritime law to determine the official length of the league, with the number increased or decreased depending whether the Crown wanted the league shorter or longer. Hence the song may correct, only outdated.

[from [strangenewwords.wordpress.com/2015/11/17/from-ushant-to-scilly/](http://strangenewwords.wordpress.com/2015/11/17/from-ushant-to-scilly/)]

**Deadman** - Dodman Point, headland near Mevagissey, Cornwall. Dodman means snail.

**Ram Head - Rame Head**, Cornwall, is a prominent hill west of the entrance to Plymouth Sound. (8 miles south of Rame are the Eddystone rocks, along with the Eddystone Light.)

**Start - Start Point** promontory in Devon, by Start Bay, where the Dart emerges

**Portland - Portland Bill**, promontory on the Isle of Portland, Dorset

**Wight** - St Catherine's Point, the southernmost tip of the Isle of Wight

**Beachy** - Beachy Head (Jones puts Fairlight first!)

**Fairlight** - East Sussex, about halfway between Hastings and Winchelsea (I'm not sure if it is Fairlight Hill or Fairlight Cove)

**Dungeness** - shingle headland, Kent. There have been seven lighthouses recorded here.

**South Foreland** - chalk headland five miles west of Dover, just before the Kent coast turns northward

**The Downs** - a roadstead, or sheltered area of sea, between Deal and the Goodwin Sands, between North and South Foreland - a very useful anchorage

## Notes on other Words

**league** - the distance a person could walk in an hour, being 3 miles on land but at sea 3 nautical miles, which is about three and a half land miles. [wikipedia]

**fathom** - six feet

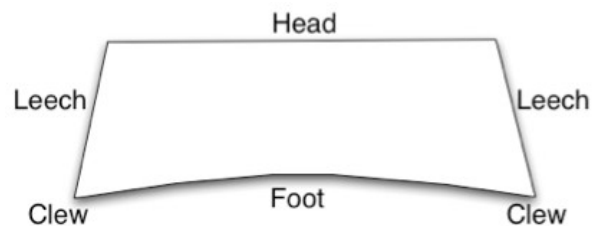
**sandy bottom** - sandy sea floor

**clew** - a lower corner of a square sail, to which **clew lines** are attached,

**stoppers** - to fasten the anchor onto the cathead

**Shank painter** - a short rope or chain by which the shank of an anchor is held fast to a ship's side when not in use

**Clew garnet** - the tackle attached to the clew line.



**tacks** - ropes attached to sails and leading forward

**sheets** - ropes attached to the sails and leading aft



Jon Such, *Bird's eye view of The Dodman* from [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)



Kevin Walsh, *Beachy Head Lighthouse* from [commons.wikimedia.org](http://commons.wikimedia.org)