

Windy Old Weather

1 As we were a-fishing off Happisburgh light,
Shooting and hauling and trawling all night,

**It was windy old weather, stormy
old weather,
When the wind blows we all pull
together.**

2. When up jumped a herring, the queen of
the sea

Said "Now, old skipper, you cannot catch me"

**In this windy old weather, stormy
old weather,
When the wind blows we all pull
together.**

3. We sighted a thresher, a-slashing his tail
"Time now, old skipper, to hoist up your sail".

**In this windy old weather, stormy
old weather,
When the wind blows we all pull
together.**

4. When along comes a mackerel with stripes
on his back

Said "Time now old skipper, to shift your main
tack"

**In this windy old weather, stormy
old weather,
When the wind blows we all pull
together**

5. Then up jumps a slipper-sole as strong
as a horse,

Said "Now old slipper, you're miles off your
course"

**In this windy old weather, stormy
old weather,
When the wind blows we all pull
together.**

6. We sighted a plaice that had spots on
his side

Said "Not much longer, these seas you
can ride"

**In this windy old weather, stormy
old weather,
When the wind blows we all pull
together.**

7. We sighted a conger as long as a mile
"Wind's blowing easterly!" he says with
a smile

**In this windy old weather, stormy
old weather,
When the wind blows we all pull
together.**

8. I think what these fishes were saying
was right,
We'll haul in our gear, boys, and steer for
the light.

**In this windy old weather, stormy
old weather,
When the wind blows we all pull
together.**

Notes:

A **capstan** shanty.

Alternative titles: The Boston come-all-ye The fishes, The Happisburgh light song, Windy old weather

Happisburgh - pronounced Haze-brough

There are many versions of this shanty. This one is from **Plumbing the Depths** by the **Sheringham Shantymen**.

Sam **Larner** (1878-1965) for his 1961 LP **Time for Fishing** wrote:

"According to Captain W.B. **Whall**, this song was at one time used as a shanty to the tune of Blow the Man Down.

"It is exceedingly popular with East-Anglian fishermen but is rarely encountered in other parts of Great Britain.

"It is found in Nova Scotia and in the U.S. where it is known as The Boston Come-All-Ye.

Kipling in **Captains Courageous** tells us it was popular with the Banks fishermen."

Some more verses:

Up jumped the sprat, the smallest of all,
He sang out, "Old Skipper, you'll lose your trawl!"

Up jumps the eel with his
slippery tail,
Climbs up aloft, and reefs the
topsail;

Up jumps the whale, the largest
of all,
"If you want any wind, well, I'll
blow ye a squall!"



Flying fish negative
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