

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 skipper, 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. Then aft wears a conger as long as a mile
 "Wind's bcoming 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
 is right,
 We'll haul in our gear now, and steer for
 the light.
**In this windy old weather, stormy
 old weather,
 When the wind blows we all pull
 together.**

Hear [Bob Roberts](https://youtu.be/Ak4cSiTOq9k) sing this version at
youtu.be/Ak4cSiTOq9k

Notes:

A **capstan** and **halyard** shanty.

Other names: The Boston come-all-ye The fishes,
 The Happisburgh light song, Windy old weather

Happisburgh - pronounced Haze-broh

This version, one of many, is by [Bob Roberts](#)
 (1907-1982), bargemaster, the last captain of a
 British commercial vessel operating under sail.

Sam Lerner (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.

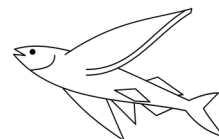
"It is found in Nova Scotia and in the U.S. where it is
 known as The Boston Come-All-Ye.
Kipling in **Captains Courageous** tells us it was
 popular with the Banks fishermen."

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
 by [ribbla](#)
 on openclipart.org