

The Shoals of Herring-crd
By Ewan MacColl

6/4 time

1. O, it was a fine and a plea - sant day
 out of yar - mouth har-bour I was far - ing
 as a cab - in boy on a sail - ing lug - ger
 for to go and hunt the shoals of her - ring
2. O, the work was hard and the hours were long
 and the treatment, sure, it took some bearing,
 there was little kindness and the kicks were many
 as we hunted for the shoals of herring
3. O, we finished the swarth and the broken bank
 I was cook and I'd a quarter-sharing
 and I used to sleep, standing on my feet
 and I'd dream about the shaols of herring
4. O, we left the home grounds in the month of June
 and to canny shiels we soon were bearing
 with a hundred cran of the silver darlings
 that we'd taken from the shoals of herring
5. Now your up on deck, you're a fisherman
 you can swear and show a manly bearing
 take your turn on watch with the other fellows
 while you're searching for the shoals of herring
6. In the stormy seas and the living gales
 just to earn your daily bread your daring
 from the dover straits to the faroe islands,
 as your following the shoals of herring
7. O, I earned me keep and I paid me way
 and I eaned the gear I was wearing
 sailed a million miles, caught ten million fishes
 we were sailing after shoals of herring

(The original radio version had a different first verse which has a slightly different melody it goes as follows)

4/4 time

C
 With our nets and gear we're far - ing
 on the wild and waste - ful o - cean
 It's there on the deep that we (6/4 time) har - vest
 and reap our bread as hunt the bon - ny shoals of her -
 ring