

The Herring Song

1 What'll we do with the herring's head?
What'll we do with the old herring's head?
We'll make it into loaves of bread

**Herrings' head, loaves of bread,
And all manner of things.**

**Of all the fish that swim in the sea
The herring is the one for me
How are ye today,
How are ye today,
How are ye today, me Hinny O?**

2. What'll we do with the herring's eyes?
We'll make them into puddings and pies!

**Herring's eyes, puddings and pies
Herring's head, loaves of bread,
And all manner of things.**

**Of all the fish that swim in the sea
The herring is the one for me
How are ye today,
How are ye today,
How are ye today, me Hinny O?**

3. And what'll we do with the herring's fins?
We'll make them into needles and pins!

**Herring's fins, needles and pins,
Herring's eyes, puddings and pies
Herring's head, loaves of bread,
And all manner of things.**

**Of all the fish that swim in the sea
The herring is the one for me
How are ye today,
How are ye today,
How are ye today, me Hinny O?**

4. And what'll we do with the herring's belly?
We'll make it into jams and jelly!

**Herring's belly, jams and jelly,
Herring's fins, needles and pins,
Herring's eyes, puddings and pies,
Herring's head, loaves of bread,
And all manner of things.**

**Of all the fish that swim in the sea
The herring is the one for me
How are ye today,
How are ye today,
How are ye today, me Hinny O?**

**How are ye today,
How are ye today, me Hinny O?**

5. And what'll we do with the herring's tail?
We'll make it into a ship with a sail!

**Herring's tail, a ship with a sail,
Herring's belly, jars of jelly,
Herring's fins, needles and pins,
Herring's eyes, puddings and pies,
Herring's head, loaves of bread,
And all manner of things.**

**Of all the fish that swim in the sea
The herring is the one for me
How are ye today,
How are ye today,
How are ye today, me Hinny O?**



Atlantic herring, Clupea harengus
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Alternative song title: *The Herring's Head*

Here's the last verse from a longer version:

What'll we do with the herrin's tail?
We'll make it into a ship with a sail!

**Herrin's tail, ship with a sail
Herrin's back, fishing smack
Herrin's belly, jams and jelly,
Herrin's fins, needles and pins,
Herrin's scales, buckets and pails,
Herrin's gills, physical pills,
Herrin's eyes, puddings and pies,
Herrin's head, loaves of bread,
And all manner of things.**

**Of all the fish that swim in the sea
The herrin' is the one for me
How are ye the day,
How are ye the day,
How are ye the day, me Hinny O?**

The Herring Song

Tom and Barbara **Brown** of Combe Marton, Devon, on the [CD Beyond the Quay](#), from [Umber Music](#) sing it like this:

What have you made of me old herring's head?
I made the best oven that ever baked bread
Pudding and pies and everything -
Don't you think I done well with me jolly Herring?

Why didn't you tell me so?
So I did, song ago!

Thou lies!
Thou lies!

Well, well and everything -
Don't you think I done well with me jolly Herrin'?

2. What have you made of me old herring's eyes?
Forty jackdaws and fifty magpies
Linnets and larks and everything -
Don't you think I done well with me jolly Herring?

Why didn't you tell me so? ...

3. What have you made of me old herring's gills?
The finest old doctor that ever sold pills!
Powders and potions and everything -
Don't you think I done well with me jolly Herring?

Why didn't you tell me so? ...

4. What have you made of me old herrin's fins?
A parcel of needles and a paper of pins!
Thimble and thread and everything -
Don't you think I done well with me jolly Herring?

Why didn't you tell me so? ...

5. What have you made of me old herring's guts?
Forty young ladies and fifty bright sluts
Wantons and harlots and everything -
Don't you think I done well with me jolly Herring?

Why didn't you tell me so? ...

6. What have you made of me old herrin's tail?
The finest ship that ever set sail
Canvas and rigging and everything -
Don't you think I done well with me jolly Herring?

Why didn't you tell me so? ...

7. And what have you made of my fish as a whole?
The biggest tall story that every was told!
Lies and fibs and everything
Don't you think I done well with me jolly Herring?!



Faroes Stamp 098, 1984, depicting smack fishermen
Engraved by Cz Slania
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Emptying a Herring Purse Seine : With the Purse Seine Fishermen

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