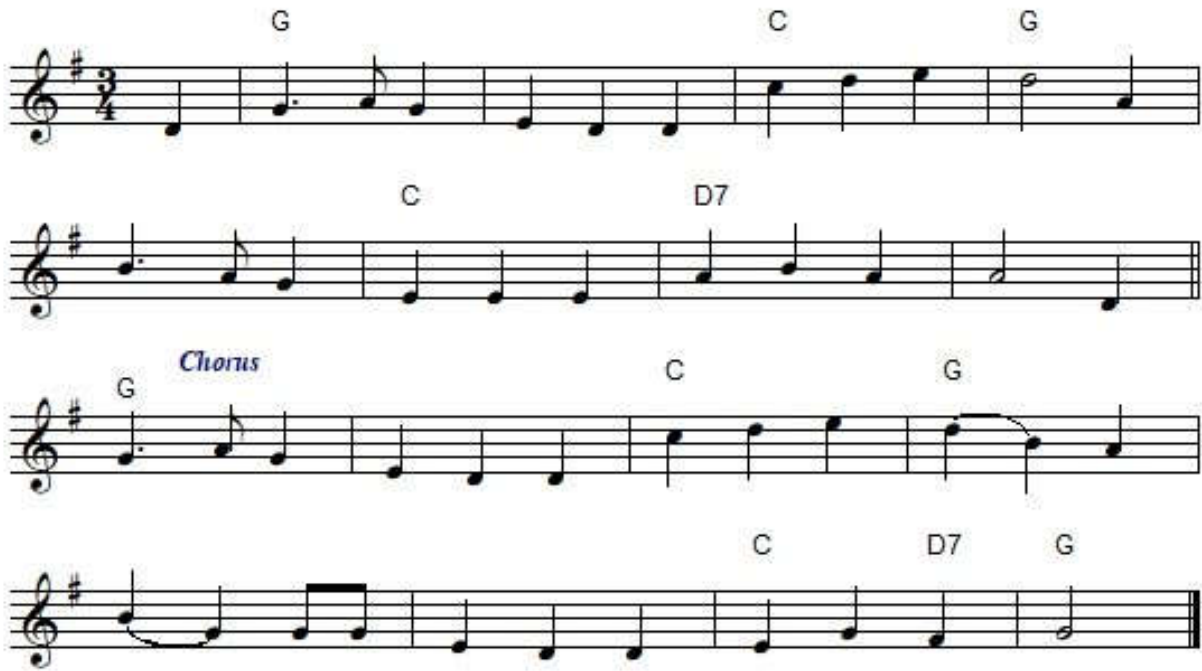


## Blow Ye Winds Westerly



1. Come all ye bold fishermen, listen to me  
I'll sing you a song of the fish of the sea.

### Chorus

So blow, ye winds westerly, westerly blow  
We're bound to the south'ard, so steady we go.

2. First comes the bluefish a-wagging his tail  
He comes up on deck and yells, "All hands make sail!"
3. Next comes the eels with their nimble tails  
They jumped up aloft and loosed all the sails.
4. Next comes the herrings with their little tails  
They manned sheets and halyards and set all the sails.
5. Next comes the porpoise with his short snout  
He jumps on the bridge and yells, "Ready, about!"
6. Next comes the swordfish, the scourge of the sea  
The order he gives is, "Helm's a-lee!"
7. Next comes the turbot, as red as a beet  
He shouts from the bridge, "Trim in that foresheet!"
8. Next comes the whale, the biggest of all  
Singing out from the bridge, "Haul taut, mains'l haul!"

9. Then comes the mackerel with his striped back  
He flopped on the bridge and yelled "Board the main tack!"
10. Then comes the codfish with his chucklehead  
Out in the main chains for a heave of the lead.
11. Up jumps the flounder, so close to the ground,  
Cryin' "Mind your lead, chucklehead, mind where you sound."
12. Along comes the shark with his three rows of teeth  
He flops on the foreyard and takes a snug reef.
13. Up jumps the fisherman, stalwart and grim,  
And with his big net he scoops 'em all in.

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"Blow Ye Winds Westerly" is also known as "Song of the Fishes", "Come All You Bold Sailormen", "Blow the Winds Southerly" and "Boston Come All Ye".

This was a capstan shanty and sailors would take turns with verses, giving a new fish each time for as long as was necessary.

It was printed in:

Colcord's **Songs of American Sailormen** (1938) (as "The Boston Come-All-Ye"),  
 Harlow's **Chanteying Aboard American Ships** (1962),  
 Hugill's **Shanties from the Seven Seas** (1961),  
 Reeves' (ed.) **The Idiom of the People** (1965),  
 Fowke and Mills' **Canada's Story in Song**,  
 Creighton's **Folksongs from Southern New Brunswick** (1971),  
 Shay's **American Sea Songs and Chanteys** (1948) (as "Song of the Fishes"),  
 John and Alan Lomax's **American Ballads and Folk Songs** (1934),  
 Lomax's **The Folk Songs of North America** (1960) (as "The Fish of the Sea"),  
 Botkin's **A Treasury of New England Folklore** (1965) (as "The Boston Come-All-Ye"),  
 Boni's (ed.) **The Fireside Book of Folk Songs** (1947) and  
 Fred and Irwin Silber's **Folksinger's Wordbook** (1973) (as "Blow Ye Winds Westerly").

It is included in **Roud's Folksong Index** as #472.

It was recorded by Charlotte Decker on **Blow the Wind Westerly** and Pete Seeger on **Come All You Bold Sailormen**.