

The Eddystone Light

Oh, me fa - ther was the kee - per of the Ed - dy stone Light And he

slept with a mer - maid one fine night. From this un - ion

there came three, A por - poise and a por - gy and the

o - ther was me. Yo ho ho The wind blows free

Oh for the life on the rol - ling sea

1. Oh, me father was the keeper of the Eddystone Light
And he slept with a mermaid one fine night.
From this union there came three,
A porpoise and a porgy and the other was me.
Chorus:
Yo ho ho
The wind blows free
Oh for the life on the rolling sea
2. One night while I was a-trimmin' the glim
A-singin' a verse from the evening hymn.
A voice from the starboard shouted, "Ahoy"
And there was me mother a-sittin' on the buoy.
Chorus
3. "Oh what has become of me children three?"
Me mother then she asked of me.
"One was exhibited as a talking fish.
The other was served in a chafing dish."
Chorus
4. Then the phosphorus flashed in her seaweed hair,
I looked again, but me mother wasn't there.
A voice come a-echoing out through the night:
"The devil take the keeper of the Eddystone Light!"
Chorus
Repeat Chorus

"The Eddystone Light" is apparently a traditional sea song. Because of the comic nature of the song, it has become a favorite for children.

The Eddystone Lighthouse is on the dangerous Eddystone Rocks, nine statute miles south of Rame Head, England, United Kingdom. While Rame Head is in Cornwall, the rocks are in Devon. The current structure is the fourth to be built on the site. The first and second were destroyed by storm and fire. The third, also known as Smeaton's Tower, is the best known because of its influence on lighthouse design and its importance in the development of concrete for building. Its upper portions have been re-erected in Plymouth as a monument. The first lighthouse was completed in 1699.

It has been recorded by The Weavers, Peter, Paul & Mary, The Brothers Four, Burl Ives and others. I first learned the Brothers Four's sanitized version from their self-titled 1960 album.