

Talcahuano Girls

Oh, I've been a sea cook and - I've been a
clip - per man, I can sing, I can dance, I can walk the jib
boom. I can hand - le a har - poon and cut a fine -
fig - ure When e - ver I get in a
boat's stand - ing room.

1. Oh, I've been a sea-cook and I've been a clipperman,
I can sing, I can dance, I can walk the jib-boom.
I can handle a harpoon and cut a fine figure
Whenever I get in a boat's standing room.

Chorus

And we'll rant and we'll roar like trueborn young whalermen,
We'll rant and we'll roar on deck or below,
Until we see bottom inside the two sinkers,
And straight up the channel to Huasco we'll go.

2. I was in Talcahuano last year in a whaler.
I bought some gold brooches for the girls in the Bay.
I bought me a pipe and they called it a meerscum,
And it melted like butter on a hot shiny day.

Chorus

3. I went to a dance one night in old Tumbez,
There was plenty of girls there as fine as you'd wish.
There was one pretty maiden a-chewing tobacco,
Just like a young kitten a-chewing fresh fish.

Chorus

4. Here's a health to the girls of old Talcahuano,
A health to the maidens of far-off Maui.
And let you be merry, don't be melancholy;
I can't marry youse all or in chokey I'd be.
Chorus

"Talcahuano Girls", also known as "We'll Rant and We'll Roar" is a British sailing song about the early 19th century Pacific sperm and right whale fishing. It is the south Pacific version of the song "Spanish Ladies".

This song comes from the South-Sea whalers who, particularly during the first half of the 19th century, sailed out of London and Hull to hunt sperm and right whales off the coasts of Chile and Peru. Talcahuano lies south of Valparaiso in Chile; Huasco is about midway between Valparaiso and Antofagasta.

It was recorded by A.L. Lloyd on **Leviathan! Ballads & Songs of the Whaling Trade** (1967) and Danny Spooner and Duncan Brown on **The Great Leviathan** (2006).