

Shoals of Herring - Ewen McColl (Based on The Corries' version)

(C) C / G C /
Wi our nets and gear we're faring
C F G /
On the wild and wispful ocean
C F [C G] F /
It's there on the deep that we harvest and reap
C [C G] Am
oor Bread

/ C / F G C / /
As we hunt the bonny shoals o' herring

/ C / F / C
Twas was a fine and a pleasant summer's day
/ C / / G /

Out of Yarmouth harbour I was faring
(C) C G F C C [C G] Am
As a cabin boy on a sailing lugger

/ C / F G C / /
We were off tae hunt the shoals o' herring

/ C / F / C
Now the work was hard and the hours were long
/ C / / G / /

And the treatment surely took some bearing
(C) C G F C C [C G] Am
There was little kindness and the kicks were many

/ C / F G C / /
As we hunted for the shoals o' herring

/ C / F / C
Now we fished the Swarth and the Broken Bank
/ C / / G /

I was cook and I'd a quarter sharing
(C) C G F C C [C G] Am
And I used to sleep standin' on my feet

/ C / F G C / /
And I'd dream about the shoals o' herring

/ C / F / C
Well we left the home ground in the month o' June
/ C / / G /

And for canny Shields we soon were bearing
(C) C G F C C [C G] Am
Wi a hundred cran of the silver darlings

/ C / F G C / /
That we'd taken from the shoals o' herring

/ C / F / C
 Through the stormy seas and the living gale
 / C / / G /
 Just tae earn your daily bread you're daring
 (C) C G F C C [C G] Am
 From the Dover Straits to the Faroe Islands
 / C / F G C / /
 As you're following the shoals o' herring

(C) C / F / C
 Now you're up on deck you're a fisherman
 / C / / G /
 You can swear and show a manly bearing
 (C) C G F C C [C G] Am
 Take your turn on deck wi the other fellows
 / C / F G C / /
 As you're following the shoals o' herring

C / G / /
 Night and day we're faring
 C F G /
 Come winter wind or winter gale
 C F C G F C [C G] Am
 Sweat or cold growing up growing old and dying
 / C / F G C
 As you hunt the bonnie shoals o' herring