

THROWN IT ALL AWAY

(Dave Evardson - based on an idea by Bill Hobson)

Twas in the year of '73 they sold us down the river
They gutted our great industry - its heart & lungs & liver
Gave in to Iceland's fifty miles, caused fishing folk to shiver
And what was left, they've thrown it all away

In '75 the Icelanders declared: We've been mistaken
For 50 miles will never do, two hundred now we're takin'
The Navy made a fine display, but couldn't save our bacon
Within a year they'd thrown it all away

They've thrown it all away
Like offal to the spray
The gulls bewail our sorry tale
They've thrown it all away

Now limits of two hundred miles, our leaders were surmisin'
Would secure their oil-field revenues - now, wasn't that surprisin'?
And the Yankee base at Keflavik they were scared of jeopardisin'
So overnight they threw it all away

By now we were in Europe - equal brothers all united
So just to nail our coffin down, our neighbours were invited
To come & share what fish was left - sayin': Thanks, we'll be delighted!
We stood & watched them throw it all away

They've thrown it all away
Like offal to the spray
The gulls bewail our sorry tale
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And so my friend began the end of a hundred years of trawlin'
And men with sailin' in their blood must soon give up their callin'
Tricked out of their redundancy, their treatment was appallin'
They wept to see their living thrown away

And now our deep-sea trawlers are from other grounds excluded
While round our coast the free-for-all has seen our stocks denuded
Don't trust in politicians, or you'll sadly be deluded
For what we had they've thrown it all away

They've thrown it all away
Like offal to the spray
The gulls bewail our sorry tale
They've thrown it all away