

THE MACKEREL DRIVERS

Jon Heslop

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a rest followed by a quarter note G4, then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff starts with a quarter note G4 and continues with eighth and quarter notes. The third staff begins with a quarter note G4 and ends with a quarter rest. The lyrics are: 'We are the mack-erel driv - ers who get nei - ther sleep nor rest but none a-long the Chan - nel beat the boys from out the West. We drive the shoals for days on end from Corn-wall round to Kent Then go up and down in a sea - port town 'til all our mon-ey is spent. We go up and down in a sea port town 'til all our mon-ey is spent.'

We are the mackerel drivers who get neither sleep nor rest
but none along the Channel beat the boys from out the West.
We drive the shoals for days on end from Cornwall round to Kent
then go up and down in a seaport town 'til all our money is spent.
We go up and down in a seaport town 'til all our money is spent.

We shoot and haul both day and night in unremitting toil.
Our backs are sore, our hands are raw, the salt it gives us boils,
but when the boats are full of fish then we are shoreward bent
to go up and down in a seaport town 'til all our money is spent.
We'll go up and down in a seaport town 'til all our money is spent.

And when the fish are landed and the mackerel are all sold,
we'll go ashore to make a spree before our money's cold.
The girls all love a fisherman, they think him quite a gent
when he goes up and down in a seaport town 'til all his money is spent.
He goes up and down in a seaport town 'til all his money is spent.

So early the next morning then we're off to sea again
to hunt the silver shoals of fish that are our only gain.
Five million fish in every mile the Good Lord to us sent.
So we'll go up and down in a seaport town 'til all our money is spent.
We'll go up and down in a seaport town 'til all our money is spent.

But now the Scottish boats are come and sail out every day.
With steam and mile long drifting nets they sweep the fish away.
They take away our livelyhood and leave us to repent
going up and down in a seaport town 'til all our money was spent.
We went up and down in a seaport town 'til all our money is spent.

Jon Heslop May 1997