

Drunken Sailor

The first published description is found in an account of an 1839 whaling voyage out of New London, Connecticut to the Pacific Ocean. It was given as an example of a song that was, "performed with very good effect when there is a long line of men hauling together."

What shall we do with the drunken sailor
What shall we do with the drunken sailor
What shall we do with the drunken sailor
Early in the the morning.

Chorus

Hoo ray! And up she rises [x3]
Early in the morning.

Put him in the longboat till he's sober.

Pull out the plug and wet him all over.

Hoist him aloft on a running bowline.

Put him in the scuppers with a hosepipe on him.

Shave his belly with a rusty razor.

Make him listen to a Kings Pond Shanty

That's what we do with a drunken sailor.

{Alt:

Put him in the hold with the Captain's daughter
Tie him to the taffrail when she's yardarm under
Give 'im a taste of the bosun's rope-end
Soak him in oil till he sprouts a flipper
Put him in the bilge and make him drink it}
<...and much worse ...>