

Cod Banging

Bob Hart sang Cod Banging at his home in Snape, Suffolk, in July 1972 to Tony Engle. This recording was released in 1973 on Hart's album Songs From Suffolk and appears to be unique to him. Suffolk folk tend to be far too kind hearted to slit the guts of a Cod whilst it is fully aware of its senses so fishermen devised a "tap on the back of the head being very careful not to hit the fingers" technique before gutting. Roud 1747.

Come come my lads and listen here
A fish'man's song you soon will hear
What I did and undergo
When first I did a cod banging go

Chorus

*To me lar fol de day riddle all the day
This is a smacksman's life at sea*

How well I remember on the fourteenth of May
A big barque ship she came our way
She came our way and did let fly
And the topsail halyard flew sky high

And now we draw near Harwich pier
The young and the old they both draw near
To see us get our fish on deck
And crack their skulls with a little short stick

And now my song is nearly done
And I hope I've not offended one
I don't think I got it complete
For I've only been in the trade about a week