

Luckiest Sailor

I've been fishing the seas, since a lad of fifteen,
There's not a stretch of the ocean where I haven't been,
And I've seen Northern Lights, and the whale fish at play,
And I've slept through the dogwatch, been fined half me pay,
And I've prayed long and hard in a Westerly storm
And I've dreamt of those young girls who helped keep me warm,
And I've sat with the old jacks, and listened in glee,
To the tales of the women, the drink and the sea.

Chorus

*I'm the luckiest sailor that Hull ever knew,
When the Kingston ship sank, with the loss of her crew.
And I prayed for their lives, sons and their wives,
On the day that the Peridot perished.*

I was a young sailor with settle in hand,
From trawling in Iceland, with white fish to land.
And I'm dressed to the nines in me rucker-back tails,
And I'm off down the 'Stricky' to sink a few ales.
Well I'll tell you a tale of the taxman and me,
He's been robbing me blind, since I first went to sea.
So I says to the skipper, 'I'll spend time ashore,
'Cos I'm damned if that taxman will have anymore'.

Chorus

Then a whisper was heard, that a Hull ship was down,
With no chance of a rescue, her men had all drowned.
And I supped up me ale, and I knew in me head,
That the Hull ship, was my ship, and me mates were all dead.
And the coins in me pocket, weighed heavy that day,
And it took me no courage to give them away,
And me mind took me back to those long days at sea.
And I asked the good Lord 'Why me mates, and not me?'

Chorus (repeat twice)

*Note: The Kingston Peridot was one of the three Hull trawlers lost in the
"Triple Trawler Tragedy" of 1968.*