

SQUID JIGGING GROUND

(This is the place where the fishermen gather)

1. Oh this is the place where the fishermen gather
In oil-skins and boots and Cape Anns battered down
All sizes of figures with squid lines and jiggers
They congregate here on the Squid Jiggin' Grounds

2. Some are workin' their jiggers, while others are yarnin'
There's some standin' up and there's more lyin' down
While all kinds of fun, jokes and ticks are begun,
As they wait for the squid on the Squid Jiggin' Ground

3. There's men of all ages and boys in the bargain
There's old Billy Cave and there's young Raymond Brown
There's red rantin Tory out here in the dory
A runnin' down Squires on the Squid Jiggin' Ground

4. Says Bobby, "The squids are on top of the water;
I just got me jiggers about one fathom down"
But a squid in the boat squirted right down his throat
And he's swearin' like mad on the Squid Jiggin' Ground

5. Now if ever you feel inclined to go squiddin'
Leave your white shirts and collars behind in the town
And if you get cranky without yer silk hanky
You'd better steer clear of the Squid Jiggin' Ground

What
Newfoundland song

Squid-Jiggin' Ground

For generations the men of Arthur Scammell's family sailed north to fish off the Labrador coast. Scammell grew up in the town of Change Islands, Nfld., and his boyhood delight in fishing shines through in this rollicking ditty. Newfoundlanders catch squid by jiggling a hook up and down in the water. The fishermen keep well covered "with oilskins and boots"; when squid are reeled in they squirt seawater and ink. To Scammell, 15 years old when he wrote this song in 1944, it was all more fun than work.



Words and music by Arthur Scammell

Music in Dork - The Big and Bulldozer Boots

Rollicking tempo

Chords: G7, C, Am, Em, C, F, C, Em, F, G, C

1. Oh, this is the place where the fish - er - men
2. work - in' of their jig - gers while oth - ers are
3. men of all a - ges and boys in the

mf

gath - er In oil - skins and boots and Cape -
yarn - in'; There's some stand - in' up, and and there's
bar - gain; There's old Bil - ly Cave, and and there's

Ann's bat - tened down. All siz - es of
more ly - in' down. While There's a red kinds of
young Ray - mond Brown. There's a red rant - in'

4. There's men from the harbor; there's men from the tickle
In all kinds of motorboats, green, gray and brown.
Right yonder is Bobby and with him is Nobby;
He's chawin' hardtack on the squid-jiggin' ground.
5. God bless my sou'wester, there's skipper John Chaffey;
He's the best hand at squid-jiggin' here, I'll be bound.
Hello! what's the row? Why, he's jiggin' one now,
The very first squid on the squid-jiggin' ground.
6. The man with the whisker is old Jacob Steele;
He's gettin' well up, but he's still pretty sound.
While Uncle Bob Hawkins wears six pairs of stockin's
Whenever he's out on the squid-jiggin' ground.
7. Holy smoke! what a scuffle; all hands are excited;
'Tis a wonder to me that there's nobody drowned.
There's a bustle, confusion, a wonderful hustle;
They're all jiggin' squids on the squid-jiggin' ground!
8. Says Bobby, "The squids are on top of the water;
I just got me jiggers about one fathom down."
But a squid in the boat squirted right down his throat,
And he's swearin' like mad on the squid-jiggin' ground.
9. There's poor Uncle Billy; his whiskers are spattered
With spots of the squid juice that's flying around.
One poor little boy got it right in the eye,
But they don't give a darn on the squid-jiggin' ground.
10. Now if ever you feel inclined to go squiddin',
Leave your white shirts and collars behind in the town.
And if you get cranky, without yer silk hanky,
You'd better steer clear of the squid-jiggin' ground.