

LET ME BE A MAN AND TAKE IT

Otto P. Kelland wrote this song in 1947. Kelland was a prison warden at St. John's Penitentiary in Newfoundland when he decided to set to music a conversation he once had with a sea captain about a sailor longing for his southeastern Newfoundland home. You can listen to Stan Rogers perform the song here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrBdEoq90AQ>. Stan sings it quite low in open G. You can capo up to fit your voice.

Let Me Fish Off Cape St. Mary's

By Otto P Kelland

G **Bm** **Em**
Take me back to my western boat,
 A **D**
Let me fish off Cape St. Mary's,
 C **G** **Bm** **Em**
Where the hagdowns* sail and the foghorns wail
 G **C** **D** **G**
With my friends the Browns and the Clearys
 Em **C** **D**
Let me fish off Cape St. Mary's.

Let me feel my dory lift
To the broad Atlantic combers,
Where the tide rips swirl and the wild ducks whirl
Where Old Neptune calls the numbers
'Neath the broad Atlantic combers....

Let me sail up Golden Bay
With my oilskins all a 'streamin'....
From the thunder squall - - when I hauled me trawl
And my old Cape Ann** a gleamin'
With my oil skins all a 'streamin'....

Let me view that rugged shore,
Where the beach is all a-glisten
With the Caplin*** spawn where from dusk to dawn
You bait your trawl and listen
To the undertow a-hissin'.

When I reach that last big shoal
Where the ground swells break asunder,
Where the wild sands roll to the surges toll.
Let me be a man and take it
Where my dory fails to make it.

Take me back to that snug green cove
Where the seas roll up their thunder.
There let me rest in the earth's cool breast
Where the stars shine out their wonder - -
And the seas roll up their thunder.

* A sea bird like a puffin

** An oilskin hat with a long bill in back

*** Capelin; a forage fish of the smelt family