

The Forth was fished for oysters for many years, and traditions grew up around the oyster fishermen and the women who sold the oysters in the street of Edinburgh. Several songs exist which were sung as the rowing boats towed dredges across the Firth, in the belief that the music helped to charm the oysters into the nets.



Right: Newhaven in 1900

The Oyster Wives' Rant (traditional)

Musical notation for "The Oyster Wives' Rant" in G major, 4/4 time. The piece consists of three staves of music. Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: Am, G, Am, G, Am, Em, G, Am. A small circular inset image shows a traditional oyster boat on the water.

Clean Pea Strae (traditional)

Musical notation for "Clean Pea Strae" in G major, 4/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: D, A7, D, A7, C, D, A7, D, A7, D, D, A, C, D, A7, D, A, C, D, Em, D, A, A7, D.



Pea Strae, or pea straw, is what's left after a pea harvest, and it is valued in some countries as soil improvement.