

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 score for 'The Oyster Wives' Rant' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). Chords are indicated above the notes: Am, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am, Em, G, Am.



Clean Pea Strae (traditional)

Musical score for 'Clean Pea Strae' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). Chords are indicated above the notes: D, A7, D, A7, C, D, A7, D, A7, D, D, A, C, D, A7, D, 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.