

Wellerman artist: The Longest Johns writer: traditional

slow and steady, with drum

1-2-3-4 [Am] [Am]

[Am] There once was a ship that put to sea
And the **[Dm]** name of the ship was the **[Am]** Billy of Tea
The **[Am]** winds blew hard, her bow dipped down
Oh **[E7]** blow, my bully boys, **[Am]** blow

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done,
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

She **[Am]** had not been two weeks from shore
When **[Dm]** down on her a **[Am]** right whale bore
The **[Am]** captain called all hands and swore
He'd **[E7]** take that whale in **[Am]** tow

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done,
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

[Am] Before the boat had hit the water
The **[Dm]** whale's tail came **[Am]** up and caught her
All **[Am]** hands to the side, harpooned and fought her
When **[E7]** she dived down **[Am]** below

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done,
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

No **[Am]** line was cut, no whale was freed;
The **[Dm]** Captain's mind was **[Am]** not of greed
But **[Am]** he belonged to the whaleman's creed;
She **[E7]** took the ship in **[Am]** tow

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done,
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

For **[Am]** forty days, or even more
The **[Dm]** line went slack, then **[Am]** tight once more
All **[Am]** boats were lost (there were only four)
But **[E7]** still that whale did **[Am]** go

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done,
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

As **[Am]** far as I've heard, the fight's still on;
The **[Dm]** line's not cut and the **[Am]** whale's not gone
The **[Am]** Wellerman makes his regular call
To **[E7]** encourage the Captain, **[Am]** crew, and all

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done,
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go **(Repeat Chorus)**