

There's a Hole in the Boat

Reel



There's a Hole in the Boat: this is from a piece of mouth music, titled “The Boat Leaks: ‘Tha Toll air a’ Bhata. The Boat Leaking, or ‘The Portree Girls’”, in K. N. MacDonald’s *Puirt-a-Beul—Mouth Tunes: or Songs for Dancing, as Practised from a Remote Antiquity by The Highlanders of Scotland*, 1901 (p.13). There are words: “Tha toll air a’ bhàta mhòr, / Tha toll air a’ bhirinn, / Tha toll air a’ bhàta mhòr / ’S cha chàirich na saoir i”. The meaning would be, roughly, “There’s a hole in the muckle boat / A hole in the birlinn / A hole in the muckle boat / The joiner canna mend it.”



Abandoned coble at Auchininver near Talmine, Sutherland