

Fishing Blues (I'm a-Goin' Fishin')

Old-time Rag; **DATE:** Early 1900's; 1928 recording by Henry Thomas; **RECORDING INFO:** Henry "Ragtime Texas" Thomas in 1928 Vocalion 1249; Taj Mahal; Doc Watson; **NOTES:** Born in 1874, Henry Thomas was an African-American "songster," tracing his musical style back to pre-blues tradition, including playing a rack of quills (a folk instrument made from cane reeds). Thought not a regular blues, "Fishing Blues" is a popular fingerstyle guitar piece and has been successfully reworked by Taj Mahal and others.

C F C
 Bet you're go-in' fish-in' all the time— Ba-by's go-in' fish-in' too—
 5 D G C
 Bet your life— that your sweet wife— Gon-na catch more fish than you— Man-y fish bite is you
 10 F C
 got good bait— Here's a lit-tle tip that I'd like to re-late— Ma-ny fish bite if you
 14 C F C F C G C
 got good bait— I'm a-go-in' fish-in' 'cause ev-ry bo-dy's fish-in' And my ba-by's go-in' fish-in' too.

C F C
 Bet you're goin' fishin' all the time Baby's goin' fishin' too.

D G
 Bet your life that your sweet wife Gonna catch more fish than you.

C F C
 CHORUS: Many fish bite if you got good bait. Here's a little tip that I'd like to relate:

C F
 Many fish bite if you got good bait. I'm a-goin' fishin',

C F C G C
 Cause everybody's fishin', And my baby's goin' fishin' too.

Went on down to my favorite fishin' hole.
 Baby, grab me a pole and line.
 Threw my line in, caught a nine-pound catfish.
 Brought him home for suppertime, provin' CHORUS:

I lean right back against on old bit tree
 Then a big old bass took a look at me
 He took my bait when I throwed my line
 When I got him to the bank, Lord, he sure looked fine CHORUS:

You put him in a pot or you put him in a pan,
 Cook him till he's nice and brown.
 Make a batch of buttermilk hoecakes,
 Grab your fork and chomp 'em on down. CHORUS: