

WORLD MUSIC ACADEMY RESOURCES

Essequibo River (trad. arranged Musiko Musika)

From West Indies/ Guyana

*Verse 1 Essequibo river is the queen of rivers all
Buddy ta na na, we are somebody oh
Essequibo river is the queen of rivers all
Buddy ta na na, we are somebody oh*

*Refrain Somebody, oh body, somebody, oh
Buddy ta na na, we are somebody oh
Somebody, oh body, somebody, oh
Buddy ta na na, we are somebody oh*

Verse 2 Essequibo bosun is the king of bosuns all

Verse 3 Essequibo sailors is the chief of sailors all

The Essequibo River lies entirely within the South American country of Guyana, and is the largest river between the Orinoco and Amazon.

The form of this shanty is a triple call and response, with the third call & response unchanged throughout the song. This is usually a good indicator of the song being originating as a slave song, probably first used for jobs ashore where pulling is needed: moving shanty huts; working cargo, etc.