

**Catfish John**  
**Nitty Gritty Dirt Band**

**A** **D**

**Chorus** Mama said, "Don't go near that river,

**A** **E**

Don't be hangin' around old Catfish John"

**A** **D**

But come the morning, I'd always be there

**A** **E**

Walkin' in his footsteps in the sweet delta dawn

**V1**      **Take me back to another morning**  
**To a time so long ago**  
**When the sweet magnolias blossomed**  
**And the cotton fields were white as snow**

**V2      Catfish John was a river hobo  
He lived and died on the riverbend  
Thinking back, I still remember  
I was proud to be his friend**

## Chorus

**V3      Born a slave in the town of Vicksburg  
Traded for a chestnut mare  
He never spoke a word in anger  
Though his load was hard to bear**

**V4**      Let me dream of another morning  
And a time so long ago  
When the sweet magnolias blossom  
And the cotton fields were white as snow

## Chorus

**Notes** 6/16/82 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANzJdVFbBQQ>)