Catfish John Key of D Mama said don't go near that river Mama said don't go near that river Don't be hangin' around old catfish John Don't be hangin' around old catfish John But come the morning I'd always be there But come the morning I'd always be there Walking in his footsteps in sweet delta dawn. Walking in his footsteps in sweet delta dawn. Born a slave in the town of Vicksburg Banjo and mandolin solos: G | D | G | D | G | D | A | D Traded for a chestnut mare Let me dream of another morning He never spoke a word in anger And a time so long ago Though his load was hard to bear. When the sweet magnolias blossomed Mama said don't go near that river And the cotton fields were white as snow. Don't be hangin' around old catfish John Mama said don't go near that river But come the morning I'd always be there Don't be hangin' around old catfish John Walking in his footsteps in sweet delta dawn. But come the morning I'd always be there Guitar & fiddle solos: G | D | G | D | G | D | A | D Walking in his footsteps in sweet delta dawn. Catfish John was a river hobo Come the morning I'd always be there He lived and died on the river bend Walking in his footsteps in sweet delta dawn. Thinkin' back I still remember I was proud to be his friend.