The Pot-Bellied Seahorse is one of the largest species of seahorses. They have large distended bellies, and use their tails to maneuver in the water. Male seahorses become pregnant when the female deposits her eggs in the male’s pouch. The male carries the eggs until they hatch, and can give birth to up to 700 babies at a time.

Baiting is often done with worms or small fish—and sometimes with words.

Crabs are found in every ocean throughout the world. They eat dead fish and plant matter and are themselves a food source in many cultures.

The Puffer Fish is one of the most poisonous creatures in the world, but the meat of some species is considered a delicacy in some countries. When threatened, the puffer fish will fill its stomach with water until it is many times its normal size.

Octopuses have four pairs of arms. They have no internal or external skeleton, allowing them to squeeze through tight places. They are intelligent and defend themselves against predators by releasing a dark, inky fluid. They travel quickly through the water, trailing their eight arms behind them as they swim. The male will live for only a few months after mating, and females die shortly after their eggs hatch. The female does not hunt during the period spent taking care of her eggs and may eat some of her own arms for sustenance. When her eggs finally hatch, the mother is often too weak to defend herself from predators. When under attack, an octopus will sometimes detach one of its arms—which can still move. The crawling arm will distract a would-be predator.

Killer Whales, also known as orcas, are mammals that are members of the dolphin family. They are found in all the oceans of the world. Killer whales are not considered a threat to humans, some feed on fish, while others hunt sea lions, seals, and whales. Like true whales, orcas live with their mothers for their entire lives. Because females can live to be ninety years old, as many as four generations travel together and separate briefly only to mate or look for food. Some killer whale populations are now endangered due to habitat loss, oil spills, and pollution, as well as their capture for marine mammal parks.

Octopuses are noted for their intelligence and their ability to hide in plain sight. They are often caught by fishermen, and their meat is considered a delicacy in some cultures.

甜口鱼 is a reference to the poem “Pied Beauty” by Gerard Manley Hopkins, an English Victorian Poet.
Sweetlips Fish

An odd name for a fish,
And perhaps a bit explicit.

It might be a sweetlips fish,
But I would never kiss it.
An amoeba is as basic as
An animal can get,
With qualities suggesting
It could be the perfect pet.

No hair to comb, no fur to clean,
It never needs a bath;
No need to walk it on a leash,
Or clean up in its path.

Birds are often bothersome;
Cats will scratch and shed;
Dogs will drool and bark and bite;
Hamsters must be fed.

Amoebas will do none of this;
They’re clean and don’t offend.
They do not mate, but duplicate
By splitting their own end.
Herring

Herring fish can travel far.
Here’s some pickled in this jar!
To find a mate, they swim to shore
And float until they’ve landed.
But when the tide goes out again
Many will get stranded.

Each spring the beach is littered
With shells of those who died;
They followed nature’s calling,
Abandoned by the tide.
Jellyfish

Jellyfish...oh, yuck—
A nettlesome bunch of bad luck;
A tentacled thing that carries its sting
In a mass of gelatinous muck.
The Crocodile and the Gator

A crocodile is long and sleek
And different from a gator;
Faster in the water,
His range is so much greater.

Of the two, the gator’s smaller,
And more scaly underneath.
He also has a bigger bite
Because he has more teeth.

There are other differences;
One has a snout that’s flatter.
But if you’re bit by either one,
Then none of this would matter.
The Smallest Fish

Mirror, mirror, on the wall
Who’s the smallest fish of all?
Seems the answer is complex
And varies based upon the sex.

Are we talking shortest size,
Or is it length that takes the prize?
You could measure this by weight,
But each fish is another’s bait.
Barnacle

A barnacle will never fuss
Or think his life is tedious.
He likes his settled habitat,
Holding tight to where he’s at.

He’s often clinging to a rock,
Or on the pilings of a dock,
Happy just to bob and float,
On a big fish or a boat.

Anchored to a rusty keel,
Or on a cable made of steel,
Picks his spot and then attaches,
As he battens down his hatches.
Killer Whale

Some say this whale will kill a man;
    The truth is more profound.
The way it works is usually
    The other way around.
Octopus

When dancing with an octopus
The movements just confound me.
For how can I move gracefully
With all those arms around me?
Puffer Fish

When you grab a puffer fish
He blows up big and wide.
So if you’re near, I’d disappear!
Or simply step aside.
Then there’s the crab
Who complains bitterly
About how things aren’t like
He wants them to be.

He’s crusty, he’s crass,
And also quite rude;
But if he’s not careful,
He ends up as food.

The Crab
Baited

Fish are always hungry
And sometimes cannot wait;
Reeled in by a shiny lure,
They’ll often take the bait.

They’ll latch onto a minnow,
Swimming in the brook;
Or find a worm that’s squirming
On someone’s fishing hook.

Sometimes snapping at a line
Will lead to pain and woe;
At times in order to survive
You have to let things go.
Pot-Bellied Seahorse

Some fathers find they often get
A bulge around the belly;
When they have kids and age a bit,
Their muscles turn to jelly.

The seahorse needs its swollen pouch
And all that body fat
To carry ’round a hundred eggs—
But I can’t fathom that.
Another Pied Beauty

Glory be for spot and bass;
For trout and slug and snail;
For fresh fish swimming in the lake;
For dolphin, shark, and whale;

For scrod and scallop, smelt and shrimp;
For prawn and cod and krill;
For seaweed, sea bass, sponge, and squid;
For fin and shell and gill;

For oceans pierced with colored sails;
For people in their boats;
For lines and ropes and sunburned skin;
Praise all that swims and floats.