Chorus:

C     F     C
Got a whale of a tale to tell ya, lads
C     G7
A whale of a tale or two
C     F     G7
'Bout the flappin' fish and the girls I've loved
C     G7     C     G7
On nights like this with the moon above
C     G7     C     G7
A whale of a tale and it's all true
C     G7     C
I swear by my tattoo

Verse 1:

F     C     Tacet
There was Mermaid Minnie, met her down in Madagascar
F     C     Tacet
She would kiss me, any time that I would ask her
F     C     G7
Then one evening, her flame of love blew out
C     G7     C     G7
Blow me down and pick me up!
C     G7     C
She swapped me for a trout.

Chorus:

C     F     C
Got a whale of a tale to tell ya, lads
C     G7
A whale of a tale or two
C     F     G7
'Bout the flappin' fish and the girls I've loved
On nights like this with the moon above
A whale of a tale and it's all true
I swear by my tattoo

Verse 2:
There was Typhoon Tessie, met her on the coast of Java
When we kissed I, bubbled up like molten lava
Then she gave me the scare of my young life
Blow me down and pick me up!
She was the captain's wife.

Chorus:
Got a whale of a tale to tell ya, lads
A whale of a tale or two
'Bout the flappin' fish and the girls I've loved
On nights like this with the moon above
A whale of a tale and it's all true
I swear by my tattoo