Verse 1.
Paddy Miles was a fisherman, young and light-hearted,
And a very respectable man, you bet
Except on the ocean where he was ---
I see all kind of fish that came into his net.
Paddy wanted but one thing and that was a wife, sir.
To keep his mansion in ordered array.
I’ve catched many things in my life, said Paddy
The most difficult thing is in catching a wife.

Verse 2.
One morning as Paddy was out on the ocean
And catching red herring and sprats in galore
A sight met his eyes which set him in commotion
Such a sight in his lifetime he had ne’er seen before.
A pretty young mermaid, as naked as Venus,
Was washing her bubbies and combing her hair.
Said Pat, “There is but a few waves between us,
Come out and float up along side of me here.”
Verse 3.
Said she, “Mr. Pat I can see you’ve a notion
You want to be green ‘cause you reared on the land.
How could I be out of my bed in the ocean
It’s my only bed, it is made of the sand.”
Not, for shame, ---
Put your pipe to mine and a little free motion
And I’ll be the soul that will tickle your ---.”

Verse 4.
And Pat he kept urging and then started begging.
Said she, “Mr. Pat, I can see you’re afloat.”
While her little green tail kept urging and wagging
He kept still and slipped her right into the boat.
It hurt Patty’s feelings while squeezing her belly
And then he was balked by one scaly swish.
For she was but female down to the belly
But the rest of her body was nothing but fish.

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 264

Editor’s notes:
Some lyrics that were unclear in the handwritten transcription were taken from Peters’ published version. However, that too is incomplete.

Sources:

K.G.