Proteus Turns Japanese

(Haiku Sequence)

Catch me as a fish.
When I have finished writhing,
Hear the news you wish.

. . .

Catch me as a seal.

I'll feed you enough gossip
To make the prude reel.

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Catch me as a whale. When I return to man-size, I'll tell a tall tale.

. . .

Catch my turtle shell.

I will write down recipes
Easy to cook well.

. . .

Catch me by the tail While I am a manta ray; You will learn to sail.

. . .

Catch me by the beak.
When I change from seagull form,
I'll tell jokes for weeks.

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Catch me as water.

I'll teach you true facts which range
From odd to odder.

...

Catch me as a fire. You'll learn the secrets of love Only if I tire.