



HAVE A HEART FOR HAGFISH

POEM BY CHARLOTTE GUNNUFSON

Hagfish aren't feeling loved
by divers deep or folks above.
Hagfish look like eels (not quite)
with just one nostril. (Awkward, right?)
Their skin fits like a saggy sock,
a palish pinkish grayish smock.
Their claim to fame?
Producing slime,
pails of mucous in no time.
Predators don't like it. (Yuck!)
And when there's too much gooeey muck,
hagfish gag and (Gross!) they sneeze.
It's just disgusting (Gaaak!) but please
appreciate what hagfish do.
They're part of nature's cleanup crew.
When dead things drift down to the bottom,
it's fine because those hagfish got 'em!
They gobble-guzzle every part.
And so, for hagfish, have a heart.

AN OCEAN OF STORIES

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