SHARKS AND DOGFISH

Blue shark

Prionace glauca

Not recorded off Sussex in our sources | Confirmed record



Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*). Picture: NMFS, E. Hoffmayer, S. Iglesias and R. McAuley, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Prionace_glauca_nmfs.jpg.

IN SHORT

The blue shark is a slender shark with a deep blue back, very long pointed pectoral fins and a long snout. Our sources do not record it off the Sussex coast. British boat record: confirmed.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Slender shark with a deep blue back, very long pointed pectoral fins and a long snout. White belly.

SIZE
Up to 13 ft and 400 lb; typical UK boat catches 5 to 8 ft and up to 150 lb.

HABITAT
Open deep water. In UK seas mostly off south-west England and Ireland, occasionally further north.

OFF SUSSEX
Not recorded in our sources

AROUND BRITAIN
Present in the warmer summer months; no exact months given.

METHODS
Charter boats from south and west England, Wales and Ireland run blue shark trips; almost all fish on strict catch-and-release.

GROUP
Sharks and dogfish

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

The blue shark is not one of the fish our sources record off Sussex, so no Kestrel Warrior trip targets it. Come and fish the Sussex coast on one of our eight trips (Prices 2027):

- **Sightseeing tour** 1 hour, £20 pp
- **Squid and cuttlefish trip** 3 hours, £55 pp
- **Sea fishing trip at anchor, multiple species** 8 hours, £75 pp
- **Wreck fishing at anchor** 10 hours, £110 pp
- **Mackerel trip** 90 minutes, £27 pp
- **Sea fishing trip, multiple species** 4 hours, £55 pp
- **Flatfish drift trip** 8 hours, £90 pp
- **Shark fishing trip** 10 hours, £150 pp

Free tuition and free gutting and filleting of your catch. Rod hire £10 per person; fishing tackle is included on the shark trip.

Scan to book

Book: ring **07896 471691** (8am to 9pm, seven days a week) · info@kestrelwarrior6.co.uk · kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/contact/

About the blue shark

The blue shark is a slender shark with a deep blue back, very long pointed pectoral fins and a long snout. The belly is white. It grows to about 13 ft and 400 lb, and typical UK boat catches are 5 to 8 ft and up to 150 lb. It is an open-water fish of deep water. In UK seas it is found mostly off south-west England and Ireland, and occasionally further north. It is present in the warmer summer months, though the record gives no exact months. The IUCN lists it as Near Threatened, and numbers are falling in European waters. That is why the advice is to release every fish. Charter boats from south and west England, Wales and Ireland run blue shark trips, and almost all of them fish on strict catch-and-release. The official record is 218 lb, yet bigger blue sharks have been caught and let go. A 242 lb fish at Milford Haven and a 256 lb fish off Cornwall were released and did not set records. It is a handsome shark, and a good example of why letting a fish go can matter more than a number on a list.

On the boat

Blue shark trips run from charter boats in south and west England, Wales and Ireland, and almost all fish on strict catch-and-release. They are present in the warmer summer months, but the record gives no exact months. No Sussex catches are recorded in the species record. Typical UK boat catches are 5 to 8 ft and up to 150 lb. In UK seas it is found mostly off south-west England and Ireland, and occasionally further north.

British boat-caught record

Confirmed record

Weight	218 lb (98.878 kg)
Where	Looe, Cornwall
When	1959
Angler	N Sutcliffe

Confirmed British boat-caught record: N Sutcliffe, 218 lb (98.878 kg), caught at Looe, Cornwall, in 1959. The official list gives the year only, not the full date. The official weight-based boat records were frozen in June 2024, and newer claims are by length only. Larger blue sharks were released and did not set records.

Care and rules

Near Threatened (IUCN), with numbers falling in European waters. Release all fish. The release advice comes from the Shark Trust and this guide, not from a legal size limit. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

Bigger blue sharks than the record have been caught and released: 242 lb at Milford Haven and 256 lb off Cornwall. Because they were released, they did not set records.

Sources: britishseafishing.co.uk Blue shark; BRFC Sea Fish Records June 2026; Wikimedia Commons image page. The full guide, with links to every source: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/sea-fish-guide/blue-shark/