SHARKS AND DOGFISH

Bull huss

Scyliorhinus stellaris Also known as greater spotted dogfish, nursehound, Greater spotted dogfish, Nursehound

Caught off the Sussex coast | Confirmed record



Bull huss (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*). Picture: Petra Karstedt (tiermotive.de), CC BY-SA 2.5 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5), via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Katzenhai-01.jpg.

IN SHORT

The bull huss, also called the greater spotted dogfish or nursehound, is a stout catshark with large dark blotches and spots, rough skin and nasal flaps that do not reach the mouth. Kestrel Warrior lists bull huss among its catches over wrecks. British boat record: confirmed.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Stout catshark with large dark blotches and spots, rough skin and nasal flaps that do not reach the mouth.

SIZE
Up to 5 ft and 25 lb; shore fish typically about 3 ft and 8 lb. Wikipedia gives a maximum of 1.6 m.

HABITAT
Deeper water and rocky ground, resting in crevices by day and feeding mostly at night. Most common at 20 to 60 m.

OFF SUSSEX
Recorded off Sussex; no months in our sources

AROUND BRITAIN
Eggs are laid March to October; adults move shallow in spring or early summer (Wikipedia).

METHODS
Fish near rocky outcrops with a 2/0 to 4/0 hook (up to 6/0), single-hook rig, big baits: mackerel strip, squid, cuttlefish, sandeel.

GROUP
Sharks and dogfish

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

Where you might meet bull huss with Captain Ant:

- **Bull huss over the Sussex wrecks** (a 10-hour day at anchor over wrecks; 10 hours, £110 per person or £800 whole boat)

Free tuition and free gutting and filleting of your catch. Rod hire £10 per person; fishing tackle is included on the shark trip. Prices 2027 from £20 per person: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/charter-boat-fishing-prices/

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

Scan to book

About the bull huss

The bull huss, also called the greater spotted dogfish or nursehound, is a stout catshark with large dark blotches and spots, rough skin and nasal flaps that do not reach the mouth. Nursehound and bull huss are the same species, and the official list calls it Bull Huss. It grows to about 5 ft and 25 lb. Shore fish are typically about 3 ft and 8 lb, and Wikipedia gives a maximum of 1.6 m. It likes deeper water and rocky ground, resting in crevices by day and feeding mostly at night. It is most common at 20 to 60 m. Eggs are laid from March to October, and adults move shallow in spring or early summer. The IUCN lists it as Vulnerable (2021), and most anglers return them. Kestrel Warrior lists bull huss among its catches over wrecks. If you like fish with a bit of character, this is a good one to meet, then send back into the water.

On the boat

Bull huss are fished near rocky outcrops with a 2/0 to 4/0 hook, up to 6/0, on a single-hook rig with big baits such as mackerel strip, squid, cuttlefish or sandeel. Kestrel Warrior lists them among its catches over wrecks. The record gives no catch months for Sussex, so none are given here. It rests in crevices by day and feeds mostly at night, and it is most common at 20 to 60 m, so rough ground at that depth is the place to look.

British boat-caught record

Confirmed record

Weight	22 lb 4 oz (10.092 kg)
Where	Minehead, Somerset
When	1986
Angler	M L Hall

Confirmed British boat-caught record: M L Hall, 22 lb 4 oz (10.092 kg), caught at Minehead, Somerset, in 1986. The official list gives the year only, not the full date, and calls the fish Bull Huss. The official weight-based boat records were frozen in June 2024, and newer claims are by length only.

Care and rules

Vulnerable (IUCN, 2021). Most anglers return them. A minimum size of 23 in (58 cm) is listed for it, but check it before keeping anything. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

Nursehound and bull huss are the same species. It rests in crevices by day and feeds mostly at night, and it is most common at 20 to 60 m.

Sources: britishseafishing.co.uk Bull huss; Wikipedia: Nursehound; Kestrel Warrior: Sharks off Brighton; BRFC Sea Fish Records June 2026; Wikimedia Commons image page; Kestrel Warrior: Fish species off Sussex. The full guide, with links to every source: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/sea-fish-guide/bull-huss/