RAYS AND SKATES

Common eagle ray

Myliobatis aquila

Not recorded off Sussex in our sources | Confirmed record



Common eagle ray (*Myliobatis aquila*). Picture: ErikvanB, CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0), via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eagle_ray_at_Burgers'_Zoo.jpg.

IN SHORT

The common eagle ray is a strange-looking visitor. Our sources do not record it off the Sussex coast. British boat record: confirmed.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Large pointed wings, protruding snout and a very long whip-like tail with a venomous stinger. Brown, olive or black above, pale below.

SIZE
Typically about 3 ft across and 15 lb; occasionally to 5 ft and over 50 lb.

HABITAT
Clean sandy ground, from shallow water to several hundred metres. Mainly warm waters, an occasional summer visitor to southern British waters including the English Channel.

OFF SUSSEX
Not recorded in our sources

AROUND BRITAIN
Thought to visit UK waters only in warmer months, mainly summer.

METHODS
Caught from boats in UK waters, not from the shore.

GROUP
Rays and skates

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

The common eagle ray 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 common eagle ray

The common eagle ray is a strange-looking visitor. It has large pointed wings, a snout that sticks out and a very long whip-like tail with a venomous stinger. The back is brown, olive or black, and the underside is pale.

Most are about 3 ft across and weigh around 15 lb, though now and then one reaches 5 ft and over 50 lb. It likes clean sandy ground, from shallow water down to several hundred metres.

This is mainly a warm-water fish. In southern British waters, including the English Channel, it is an occasional summer visitor, thought to come only in the warmer months. In UK waters it is caught from boats, not from the shore.

It is a shy animal and uses the stinger only in defence, so calm handling and plenty of space are the sensible approach. The IUCN lists it as Data Deficient overall, and as Near Threatened in the Mediterranean. If one does turn up, please release it.

On the boat

In UK waters the common eagle ray is caught from boats, not from the shore. It is thought to visit only in the warmer months, mainly summer, and our records do not say which months it has been seen off Sussex. It favours clean sandy ground, so that is where it would be expected.

Beyond that, the sources we have do not give baits, rigs or grounds, and we will not guess.

British boat-caught record

Confirmed record

Weight	101 lb 14 oz 6 dr
Where	Off St Catherines Bay, Isle of Wight
When	2004
Angler	R Lewis

Confirmed British boat-caught record: R Lewis, 101 lb 14 oz 6 dr, off St Catherines Bay, Isle of Wight, in 2004. This is from the official British Record Fish Committee list (updated 18 June 2026), where it appears as Ray (Eagle). Only the year is given. Official weight-based boat records were frozen in June 2024, and new boat claims must be measured. No shore record is listed.

Care and rules

Please release it. The stinger is used only in defence, but handle with care. The IUCN lists the species as Data Deficient overall and Near Threatened in the Mediterranean. Our sources give no minimum landing size. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

The common eagle ray's long whip-like tail carries a venomous stinger, but the species record describes it as a shy animal that uses the stinger only in defence.

Sources: British Sea Fishing: Other Ray Species; BRFC Sea Fish Records, June 2026. The full guide, with links to every source: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/sea-fish-guide/eagle-ray/