COD FAMILY

Haddock

Melanogrammus aeglefinus

Not recorded off Sussex in our sources | Confirmed record



Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*). Picture: Vsevolod Rudyi, CC BY 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Melanogrammus_aeglefinus_318932194.jpg.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Grey-brown cod-family fish with a black lateral line and a black thumbprint blotch above the pectoral fin.

SIZE
Most UK fish are 30-70 cm; up to about 80 cm and 8 kg.

HABITAT
Softer seabed, rock, sand, gravel or shell, from about 10 m to 300 m. Most abundant north of the English Channel.

OFF SUSSEX
Not recorded in our sources

AROUND BRITAIN
No months in our sources

METHODS
Mussel, lugworm and fish-strip baits; pirks, feathers and plastic worms or eels.

GROUP
Cod family

IN SHORT
Haddock is a cod-family fish, and two marks give it away: a black line along the side and a black thumbprint blotch above the pectoral fin. Our sources do not record it off the Sussex coast. British boat record: confirmed.

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

The haddock 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 haddock

Haddock is a cod-family fish, and two marks give it away: a black line along the side and a black thumbprint blotch above the pectoral fin. The rest of the fish is grey-brown.

Most UK fish measure 30 to 70 cm, and they can reach about 80 cm and 8 kg. Haddock live over softer seabed, and also rock, sand, gravel or shell, from about 10 m down to 300 m.

Here is the catch for Sussex anglers. Haddock are most abundant north of the English Channel, and the record does not list Sussex as a haddock fishery, so this is not a fish to expect on a trip off Brighton. The record book points the same way: the biggest boat-caught haddock on the list came from off Falmouth, in Cornwall.

If you do meet one, the baits are simple. Mussel, lugworm and strips of fish are all used, and so are pirks, feathers and plastic worms or eels.

On the boat

Boat anglers take haddock on mussel, lugworm and fish-strip baits, or on pirks, feathers and plastic worms and eels. The fish sit over softer seabed, rock, sand, gravel or shell, from about 10 m to 300 m. The record does not give months for Britain or Sussex, so we cannot say when they are best. They are most abundant north of the English Channel, and the record does not list Sussex as a haddock fishery.

British boat-caught record

Confirmed record

Weight	13 lb 11 oz 4 dr (6.215 kg)
Where	Off Falmouth, Cornwall
When	1978
Angler	G Bones

Confirmed British boat-caught record: G Bones, 13 lb 11 oz 4 dr (6.215 kg), off Falmouth, Cornwall, 1978. The official weight-based boat records were frozen in June 2024. The official list gives the year only, not the full date. The list does not say anything more about the capture.

Care and rules

The minimum size for haddock in UK waters is 30 cm. Measure any fish you intend to keep, and return anything smaller. The record has no further notes on release or eating. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

The haddock carries a black thumbprint blotch above the pectoral fin and a black lateral line. Together they make it easy to tell from other cod-family fish.

Sources: Planet Sea Fishing - Haddock; Wikipedia - Haddock; Gov.uk - Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes; BRFC Sea Fish Listings June 2026. The full guide, with links to every source: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/sea-fish-guide/haddock/