FLATFISH

Halibut

Hippoglossus hippoglossus

Not recorded off Sussex in our sources | Confirmed record



Halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*). Picture: Cephas, CC BY-SA 3.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0), via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hippoglossus_hippoglossus_PAQ.jpg.

IN SHORT
The halibut is the giant of the flatfish family. Our sources do not record it off the Sussex coast. British boat record: confirmed.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Huge, slim, diamond-shaped right-eyed flatfish, dark brown to green on top, pale underneath, with a slightly forked tail.

SIZE
Can pass 700 lb; Wikipedia says males average 10-15 kg. British Sea Fishing gives no typical UK weight.

HABITAT
Cold, deep water, adults at 50 m or deeper over sand, gravel or clay; mainly northern North Sea and north Atlantic.

OFF SUSSEX
Not recorded in our sources

AROUND BRITAIN
No months in our sources

METHODS
Most UK anglers fish from a boat using pirks, lures and livebait (British Sea Fishing).

GROUP
Flatfish

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

The halibut 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 halibut

The halibut is the giant of the flatfish family. It is a huge, slim, diamond-shaped fish with both eyes on the right side, dark brown to green on top and pale underneath, with a slightly forked tail. It lives in cold, deep water, with adults at 50 metres or more over sand, gravel or clay, mainly in the northern North Sea and the north Atlantic. It is not a Sussex fish in any practical sense. Size is the headline. British Sea Fishing gives no typical weight for a UK catch, but the species can pass 700 lb, and Wikipedia says males average 10 to 15 kg. On the south coast, then, the halibut is a fish to know about rather than one to plan a trip around. Most UK anglers who do fish for one go by boat, using pirks, lures and livebait. It is a rare catch, and British Sea Fishing says the IUCN lists the Atlantic halibut as Endangered, though Wikipedia is not consistent on that. So if one ever does turn up on the end of a line, the kind thing is a careful, quick release.

On the boat

Most UK anglers who fish for halibut do so from a boat, using pirks, lures and livebait, according to British Sea Fishing. The record gives no months for Britain or for Sussex, so we cannot say when they are best sought. They live at 50 metres or deeper over sand, gravel or clay, mainly in the northern North Sea and north Atlantic, so a trip from Brighton is not where this fish is found.

British boat-caught record

Confirmed record

Weight	234 lb 0 oz
Where	Dunnet Head, off Scrabster, Scotland
When	1979
Angler	C Booth

Confirmed British boat-caught record: C Booth caught a halibut of 234 lb 0 oz at Dunnet Head, off Scrabster, Scotland, in 1979. That is the entry on the official British Record Fish Committee list for June 2026. The list gives the year only, not the full date.

Care and rules

The IUCN lists the Atlantic halibut as Endangered, according to British Sea Fishing, although Wikipedia is inconsistent on this. It is a rare catch, so release it carefully. Our record gives no landing size or eating advice. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

Atlantic halibut can pass 700 lb, according to British Sea Fishing, and Wikipedia says males average 10 to 15 kg. The British boat record is 234 lb.

Sources: Wikipedia: Atlantic halibut; British Sea Fishing: Halibut; BRFC sea fish listings June 2026. The full guide, with links to every source: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/sea-fish-guide/halibut/