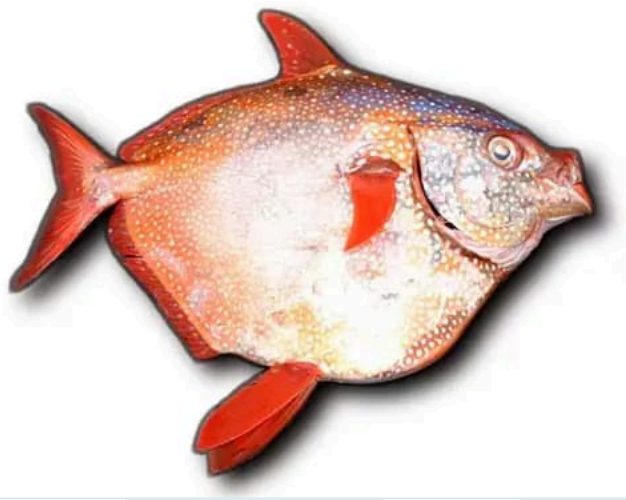
RARER VISITORS AND OTHERS

Opah

Lampris guttatus Also known as moonfish, Moonfish

Not recorded off Sussex in our sources | Confirmed record



Opah (*Lampris guttatus*). Picture: Not stated on Commons (public domain), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Moonfish_600.jpg.

IN SHORT
The opah is one of the oddest fish you could meet. Our sources do not record it off the Sussex coast. British boat record: confirmed.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Deep, almost round silvery-blue fish with white spots and bright red fins. Large eyes ringed in yellow.

SIZE
Up to about 6 ft and 600 lb (British Sea Fishing); Wikipedia says 2 m and 86 kg is typical maximum.

HABITAT
Open ocean, mid-water, usually several hundred metres down. Very sparse in British waters, with more sightings to the south-west of England and Ireland.

OFF SUSSEX
Not recorded in our sources

AROUND BRITAIN
No months in our sources

METHODS
Very rare in rod catches. Commercially taken as bycatch on tuna longlines and in pelagic trawls.

GROUP
Rarer visitors and others

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

The opah 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 opah

The opah is one of the oddest fish you could meet. It is deep and almost round, silvery blue with white spots, bright red fins and big eyes ringed in yellow. Some people call it the moonfish. It lives in the open ocean, usually several hundred metres down. British Sea Fishing gives its size as up to about 6 ft and 600 lb, while Wikipedia gives 2 m and 86 kg as a typical maximum. Either way, it is a big fish. In British waters it is very sparse, with more sightings to the south-west of England and Ireland, and it is not a fish to expect on a boat trip. Commercially it turns up as bycatch on tuna longlines and in pelagic trawls. Rod catches are very rare. The British boat-caught record is 128 lb, from Mounts Bay, Penzance, in 1973, and there is no shore record. Our record notes no Sussex catches.

On the boat

The opah is very rare in rod catches. It is mostly known as bycatch on tuna longlines and in pelagic trawls, not something anglers set out to catch. It lives mid-water in the open ocean, usually several hundred metres down. The record gives no months for Britain, so no season can be given. Sightings are more common to the south-west of England and Ireland. There are no Sussex catches noted in the record.

British boat-caught record

Confirmed record

Weight	128 lb (58.057 kg)
Where	Mounts Bay, Penzance
When	1973
Angler	A R Blewett

Confirmed British boat-caught record: A R Blewett, 128 lb (58.057 kg), Mounts Bay, Penzance, 1973. The official list gives the year only. The official weight-based boat records were frozen in June 2024, and newer claims are by length only. There is no shore record for this species.

Care and rules

No UK minimum size is listed for the opah, and it is very rare in Britain. The sources give no protection or eating advice beyond that. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

Wikipedia gives 2 m and 86 kg as the typical maximum for an opah, but British Sea Fishing says it can reach about 6 ft and 600 lb. The British boat record, caught in 1973, is 128 lb.

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