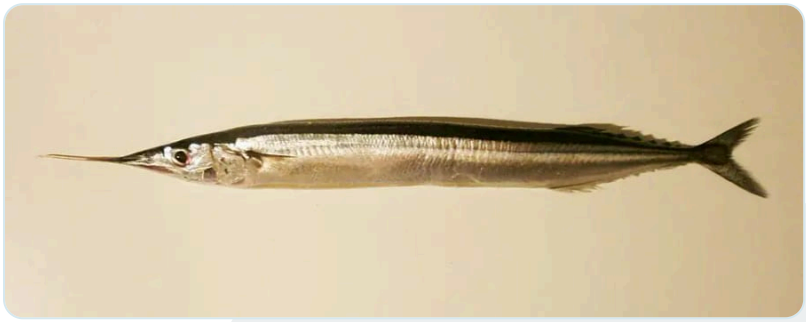
SHOAL AND OPEN-WATER FISH

Atlantic saury

Scomberesox saurus Also known as skipper, Skipper

Not recorded off Sussex in our sources | None listed



Atlantic saury (*Scomberesox saurus*). Picture: Foundling, CC BY-SA 3.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/), via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Scomberesox_saurus_1.jpg.

IN SHORT

The Atlantic saury, often called the skipper, is a slender surface fish with a beak-like snout and tiny teeth. Our sources do not record it off the Sussex coast. British boat record: none listed.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Slender surface fish with a beak-like snout, tiny teeth and finlets behind the dorsal and anal fins. Looks like a garfish.

SIZE
Typically about 35 cm, up to 50 cm (Wikipedia).

HABITAT
Near the surface down to about 30 m, often jumping clear of the water. Comes inshore in summer (Wikipedia).

OFF SUSSEX
Not recorded in our sources

AROUND BRITAIN
No months in our sources

METHODS
Not given in our sources

GROUP
Shoal and open-water fish

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

The Atlantic saury 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

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About the Atlantic saury

The Atlantic saury, often called the skipper, is a slender surface fish with a beak-like snout and tiny teeth. Behind the dorsal and anal fins it has a row of small finlets. At a glance it looks like a garfish, which is the usual mix-up. A typical skipper is about 35 cm long, and the largest reach around 50 cm. It lives near the surface, down to about 30 m, and it often jumps clear of the water. In summer it comes inshore. Around Britain it is only occasionally recorded, so it is not a fish you can plan a day around. If a long, thin, beaked fish turns up on the line, the finlets behind the dorsal and anal fins are among the features that mark the saury. The IUCN lists it as Least Concern. We found no fishing methods, no months and no Sussex notes for it, and we would rather say so than guess. It is a quiet corner of the species list, but a real one. The only skipper on the official mini-species table is a beach-caught fish from County Durham in 1994.

On the boat

The species record gives no method, bait, month or Sussex note for saury, so we will not guess. What is known is that it stays near the surface, down to about 30 m, often jumping clear of the water. It comes inshore in summer and is only occasionally recorded in British waters.

British boat-caught record

None listed

No British boat-caught record is listed for this species. The official mini-species table does list a skipper of 148 g, caught by A Woods at Seaham Chemical Beach, Co Durham, in 1994. That is a beach location, so it is not a boat record.

Care and rules

Atlantic saury is not listed on the Gov.uk minimum conservation reference size page (checked 2026). The IUCN lists it as Least Concern. The record notes give no other protection or release rules for anglers. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

The saury often jumps clear of the water. In Britain it is only occasionally recorded, and the official list's skipper entry is a 148 g fish from a Durham beach in 1994.

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