RARER VISITORS AND OTHERS

Snake pipefish

Entelurus aequoreus

Caught off the Sussex coast | None listed



Snake pipefish (*Entelurus aequoreus*). Picture: Bernard Picton, CC BY 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0), via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Entelurus_aequoreus_13273857.jpg.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Long, thin, snake-like fish with a seahorse-like head, a long snout and pale blue rings edged in black.

SIZE
Males about 40 cm, females about 45 cm; most British fish seen are 25 to 40 cm.

HABITAT
An open-sea pipefish found among kelp and other seaweed. Often seen far offshore.

OFF SUSSEX
Recorded off Sussex; no months in our sources

AROUND BRITAIN
Most live sightings and catches from about July to October on the Glaucus page; many strandings from December to April.

METHODS
Not an angling fish. Occasionally tangled in kelp, bait or prawn nets.

GROUP
Rarer visitors and others

IN SHORT
The snake pipefish is a long, thin, snake-like fish with a seahorse-like head and a long snout. The only Sussex record on the Glaucus page is off Worthing Pier in June 2000, marked as a rare record. British boat record: none listed.

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

The snake pipefish has been recorded off the Sussex coast, but none of our trips sets out to catch it. Come and see what is biting on one of our eight trips (Prices 2027):

- **Sightseeing tour** 1 hour, £20 pp
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- **Wreck fishing at anchor** 10 hours, £110 pp
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Free tuition and free gutting and filleting of your catch. Rod hire £10 per person; fishing tackle is included on the shark trip.

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About the snake pipefish

The snake pipefish is a long, thin, snake-like fish with a seahorse-like head and a long snout. Look for the pale blue rings edged in black along the body. It is harmless. Males grow to about 40 cm and females to about 45 cm, though most British fish seen are 25 to 40 cm. This is an open-sea pipefish, found among kelp and other seaweed, and often seen far offshore. It is not an angling fish at all. If one turns up, it is usually tangled in kelp, bait or prawn nets rather than hooked. On the Glaucus page, most live sightings and catches fall from about July to October, while many strandings are from December to April. Numbers have boomed and crashed in recent years. It is listed only on the mini-species page of the British Record Fish Committee, with no separate boat or shore record, so there is no boat record to chase. The only Sussex record on the Glaucus page is a rare one off Worthing Pier in June 2000.

On the boat

The snake pipefish is not an angling fish. It is occasionally tangled in kelp, bait or prawn nets, and it is often seen far offshore. Most live sightings and catches are from about July to October on the Glaucus page. The sources give no Sussex months or methods, so we cannot say when or how one might turn up off Sussex.

British boat-caught record

None listed

No British boat-caught record is listed for this species, and it is not a confirmed or claimed boat record. It appears only on the British Record Fish Committee mini-species page, which has no boat and shore split. The mini-species record is T A Evans, Menai Straits, Anglesey, 1987.

Care and rules

Harmless. Numbers have boomed and crashed in recent years. It is not an angling fish, so if one is found tangled in kelp or a net, handle it gently and return it. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

Many snake pipefish strandings are reported between December and April, while most live sightings and catches come from about July to October, according to the Glaucus page.

Sources: British Marine Life Study Society: snake pipefish; Wikipedia: snake pipefish; BRFC sea fish records, June 2026. The full guide, with links to every source: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/sea-fish-guide/snake-pipefish/