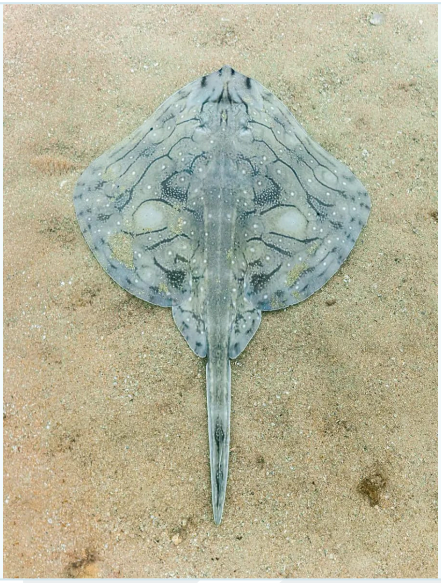
RAYS AND SKATES

Undulate ray

Raja undulata

Caught off the Sussex coast | Confirmed record



Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*). Picture: Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0), via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raya_mosaico_(Raja_undulata),_Parque_natural_de_la_Arrábida,_Portugal,_2020-07-21,_DD_92-93_PAN.jpg.

IN SHORT

The undulate ray is a rounded ray with a thick tail. Arun District Council says Sussex has a healthy undulate population that has grown over ten years. British boat record: confirmed.

Key facts

IDENTIFY IT
Rounded ray with a thick tail. Dark brown, grey or yellowish back with thick dark wavy lines and white spots.

SIZE
Up to about 3 ft and 20-25 lb. Shore catches are usually 2-6 lb. Another source gives up to 100 cm and 10 kg.

HABITAT
Sandy or light shingle seabeds, usually in water at least 10 m deep, down to about 200 m. Warmer waters south and west of Britain.

OFF SUSSEX
Egg-laying runs from March to September (Arun District Council). More undulates appeared in West Sussex catches in April 2025.

AROUND BRITAIN
No months in our sources

METHODS
Clipped-down single-hook rigs, 1/0 to 3/0 hook. Peeler crab is the best bait; mackerel, herring and squid also work. Off Sussex, whole mackerel baits from the boat.

GROUP
Rays and skates

COME FISHING WITH US

Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

Where you might meet undulate ray with Captain Ant:

- **Drift for undulate ray on the flatfish trip** (8 hours drifting the sandbanks; 8 hours, £90 per person or £700 whole boat)

Free tuition and free gutting and filleting of your catch. Rod hire £10 per person; fishing tackle is included on the shark trip. Prices 2027 from £20 per person: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/charter-boat-fishing-prices/

Book: ring **07896 471691** (8am to 9pm, seven days a week) · info@kestrelwarrior6.co.uk · kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/contact/

Scan to book

About the undulate ray

The undulate ray is a rounded ray with a thick tail. The back is dark brown, grey or yellowish, with thick dark wavy lines and white spots. It grows to about 3 ft and 20 to 25 lb, though another source gives up to 100 cm and 10 kg. Shore catches are usually 2 to 6 lb.

It lives over sandy or light shingle seabeds, usually in water at least 10 m deep and down to about 200 m. In Britain it belongs to the warmer waters of the south and west.

Globally the IUCN lists it as Endangered, and it is a UK priority species, so this guide advises returning every fish unharmed. Landing is prohibited in some UK areas, and the Channel has commercial rules of its own.

Arun District Council says Sussex has a healthy undulate population that has grown over ten years. Kestrel Warrior also lists undulate rays among its boat catches. If one comes up, keep it in the water where you can, handle it gently and let it go. A quick photograph is plenty.

On the boat

The record gives no months for Britain. For Sussex, egg-laying runs from March to September, and more undulates appeared in West Sussex catches in April 2025. The methods listed are clipped-down single-hook rigs with a 1/0 to 3/0 hook. Peeler crab is the best bait, and mackerel, herring and squid also work. Off Sussex, anglers use whole mackerel baits from the boat.

British boat-caught record

Confirmed record

Weight	22 lb 13 oz
Where	Off Weymouth, Dorset
When	2016
Angler	S Juggins

Confirmed British boat-caught record: S Juggins, 22 lb 13 oz, off Weymouth, Dorset, 2016. The official list gives the year only. The official weight-based boat records were frozen in June 2024, and newer boat claims must be measured (qualifying wingspan 100 cm).

Care and rules

RELEASE. The undulate ray is Endangered globally (IUCN) and a UK priority species. Landing is prohibited in some UK areas, and the Channel has commercial rules. This guide advises returning every fish unharmed. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

Did you know?

Arun District Council says Sussex has a healthy undulate ray population, and that it has grown over the last ten years. That is good news for a species listed as Endangered worldwide.

Sources: British Sea Fishing: Undulate Ray; Arun District Council: Wild Wednesday, Undulate Ray; BRFC Sea Fish Records, June 2026; Kestrel Warrior: Sea fish of Sussex; Prime Angling: West Sussex report 27 April 2025. The full guide, with links to every source: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/sea-fish-guide/undulate-ray/