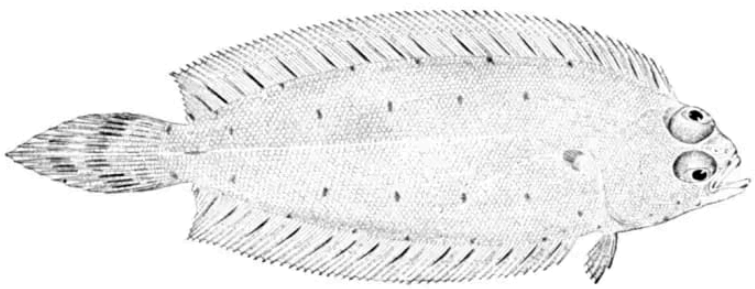
FLATFISH

# Witch

*Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*

Not recorded off Sussex in our sources | None listed



Witch (*Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*). Picture: G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean, 1896 (historic illustration, not a photograph), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Glyptocephalus_cynoglossus.jpg.

**IN SHORT**

The witch is an oval, right-eyed flatfish, light brown to greenish-grey with darker fins, a small head, rough skin and a straight lateral line. Our sources do not record it off the Sussex coast. British boat record: none listed.

## Key facts

**IDENTIFY IT**
Oval right-eyed flatfish, light brown to greenish-grey with darker fins, small head, rough skin and a straight lateral line.

**SIZE**
Up to 2 ft and 5 lb (British Sea Fishing).

**HABITAT**
Deep water, sand and mud, down to over 1,000 m; cold-water fish.

**OFF SUSSEX**
Not recorded in our sources

**AROUND BRITAIN**
No months in our sources

**METHODS**
A very rare rod-and-line catch; taken commercially by bottom trawling (British Sea Fishing).

**GROUP**
Flatfish

COME FISHING WITH US

## Fish with Kestrel Warrior from Brighton Marina

The witch 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 witch

The witch is an oval, right-eyed flatfish, light brown to greenish-grey with darker fins, a small head, rough skin and a straight lateral line. It is a cold-water fish of deep water over sand and mud, found down to over 1,000 metres. British Sea Fishing gives its size as up to 2 ft and 5 lb. It is taken commercially by bottom trawling, but a rod-and-line catch is very rare. So the witch is one of those fish that most anglers will read about rather than catch. Our record does not mark it as a Sussex species. There is no boat record for it either: the official list shows the boat weight record as unclaimed, with a qualifying weight of 12 oz. If you do catch something that looks like one, check the markings, the rough skin and the straight lateral line. We would rather tell you plainly that it is rare than promise you a chance of one. Think of it as a fish for the curious, and for anyone who likes to know what lives in the deep mud below the boat.

## On the boat

The witch is a very rare rod-and-line catch, according to British Sea Fishing, and it is taken commercially by bottom trawling. It lives in deep water over sand and mud. Our record gives no months for Britain or Sussex and no angling method, so we cannot say how or when to target one from a boat.

## British boat-caught record

None listed

No British boat-caught record is listed for this species. The official June 2026 British Record Fish Committee listing shows the boat weight record as unclaimed, with a qualifying weight of 12 oz. The shore record is 1 lb 2 oz 13 dr, caught in 1967 by T J Barathy at Colwyn Bay.

## Care and rules

There is no national minimum size for witch on the gov.uk list. Our record gives no protection status or eating advice. Rules change: check the current rules before you fish.

## Did you know?

British Sea Fishing says the witch grows to about 2 ft and 5 lb, and lives in deep water down to over 1,000 metres. It is a very rare catch on rod and line.

**Sources:** British Sea Fishing: Witch; BRFC sea fish listings June 2026. The full guide, with links to every source: kestrelwarrior6.co.uk/sea-fish-guide/witch/