

Common Dab

Limanda limanda

Fish · Here all year · spawns in spring



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A small right-eyed flatfish, sandy-brown and finely speckled with no bright spots, and rough to the touch because the scales are toothed. The identifying feature is the lateral line, which curves in a pronounced arc over the pectoral fin before running straight. Dab are abundant over sand in the Solway and are one of the commonest small flatfish inshore.

BEHAVIOUR

Dab lie on clean sand and fine gravel, feeding on small crustaceans, worms, brittlestars and molluscs. They are among the most numerous flatfish of shallow inshore waters and are frequently caught from beaches and piers. Spawning takes place inshore in spring, and the young settle into very shallow water — the sandy Solway margins act as an important nursery.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Righteye flounders (Pleuronectidae)
SIZE	Commonly 15–25 cm
UK STATUS	Native; abundant in shallow inshore waters

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